

# Cross-Channel ferries stopped as seamen's strike begins

Some cross-Channel and Irish ferry services were halted last night as the seamen's strike began. Crews walked off ships for guerrilla stoppages after the employers had formally tabled an improved pay offer of 12 per cent, which they said would be withdrawn if not accepted by midnight tomorrow. The seamen's union has appealed for support from British unions and foreign crewmen.

## Owners' ultimatum on new offer

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

Cross-Channel and Irish ferry users became the first victims last night of widespread but unpredictable disruption of the United Kingdom merchant fleet caused by the seamen's strike. As crews began to walk off the ships for "guerrilla" stoppages, the General Council of British Shipping formally tabled an improved offer of 12 per cent for consideration by leaders of the National Union of Seamen.

But it gave a warning that the package, worked out during three days of talks at the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas), would be withdrawn at midnight tomorrow if the union executive had not accepted it or agreed to recommend it to the 29,000 ratings.

The seamen's leaders are not expected to give in to the shipowners' ultimatum, and the scene is set for a protracted dispute. The union has appealed for support from other British unions, including the Transport and General Workers' Union, to which the dockers belong, and from other seafaring unions abroad. Officials have been sent to the Continent to seek support from foreign crewmen.

Mr James Slater, general secretary of the NUS, said yesterday: "We are trusting that they will give us whatever support is in their power." The response from his own members around the world had been "tremendous".

In its escalation of the three-week-old dispute, the union has decided to hold one-day strikes in British ports that will affect ferry services and other shipping; to halt from today sailings of deep-sea foreign-going ships; and to disrupt even more seriously vessels owned by 14 registered companies which the union regards as "hawks" in the wage bargaining.

The Townsend-Thoresen ferry, Free Enterprise VIII, due to sail from Dover to Calais, became the first casualty last night. She did not set out after the crew were told not to sail unless they could get to their destination and back by midnight.



Mr James Slater: An appeal to foreign crews

Services from Stranrair to Larne are also affected. Sealink said that ferries from Folkestone to Boulogne, Calais and Ostend were not operating and there would be a restricted service between Dover and Calais today. But passengers were finding room on French and Belgian ships.

Mr Adrian Swire, president of the General Council of British Shipping, said: "It is a tragedy for British shipping that the NUS has broken off the talks which were going on under Acas, and has announced a programme of extended industrial action."

"The only people who will gain from this action will be the competitors of British shipping. Further British ships will be lost and with them jobs, not only of ratings but also of officers and shore staff. Charterers are bound to turn increasingly to foreign ships. We have already lost 350 ships and 8,000 jobs from the United Kingdom register over the last three years."

The employers' "very fair offer" was more than many shipowners could afford. It would raise basic pay by £6 a week to £70, and with a proportionate rise in overtime rates, take-home pay for the average seaman would go up to about £140 a week.

In the three days of talks at Acas, during which the two sides never met, the 10.5 per

cent "final" offer was increased to 12 per cent, by improving Sunday overtime pay from time and a quarter to time and a half, which would give most seamen another £2 a week. That enhanced rate for overtime would be available for Saturday and bank holiday working from January 1982, and in addition the employers proposed a detailed survey of overtime under Acas auspices "so as to help both sides for future negotiations".

Mr Swire added: "We thought we were near agreement at Acas when the NUS walked out. We believe that a vast number of seamen in the ports and at sea are only too ready to accept this offer and do not want to strike."

Pointing out that 44 per cent of those taking part in a ballot on the previous offer had voted to accept, he said: "With the improved offer I cannot understand the remaining-like action of the NUS."

The employers are uncertain about the effects of the strike because the union's "guerrilla" action is designed to strike at short notice. But as many as 60 ships may be prevented from sailing from the United Kingdom, and container traffic and coastal oil tankers are thought to be most at risk. Oil stocks are said to be high.

Import and export traffic handled by the 1,200 ships in the United Kingdom merchant marine has fallen from more than 50 per cent in 1966, when the seamen had a 47-day national strike, to only about 30 per cent today. The shift of traffic to foreign lines is worrying the employers "very deeply".

Mr Slater, who is due to address seamen in Liverpool today, said that the action would be effective and would begin to bite within 24 hours. But the union hoped that in a very short period it would be able to meet the owners round the table.

Denying that the strikes would lose jobs and ships, he said that British shipping was heading for a recession, and the recession was just as capable of fighting for our jobs as we are of fighting for our wages, and will meet that time when it comes."

Leading article, page 11

# Cabinet split over teachers' pay likely to force election well before November Resignation deprives Israeli Government of majority

From Christopher Walker  
Jerusalem, Jan 11

As Israel's political crisis deepened tonight with the resignation of Mr Yigael Hurwitz, the Finance Minister, there was a growing conviction among politicians of all parties that the country will now face an early general election, well before the scheduled date of November.

An early election is expected to have far-reaching consequences in the Middle East as all opinion surveys are united in predicting a landslide victory for the Opposition Labour Party.

Under the leadership of Mr Shimon Peres, the party has made clear that it favours a territorial compromise with Jordan over the occupied West Bank.

After a seven-and-a-half-hour session of the coalition Cabinet, Mr Arieh Neor, the Government spokesman, said that it was now likely that Mr Hurwitz's three-man Rafi faction will withdraw its vital support from the Government. Such a move would

deprive the coalition of its narrow majority.

Mr Naor said that he was now unsure whether the coalition could survive as a minority Government. He added that a Government Bill setting an early election date could be presented to Parliament before the end of this week.

Tomorrow morning the dispirited Cabinet will reconvene in emergency session to discuss the political consequences of Mr Hurwitz's resignation, which does not take effect for 48 hours. He stated that it was extremely unlikely that he could be persuaded to withdraw it.

Although Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, refused to comment on the new crisis tonight, close associates claimed that he was more likely to opt for early elections than to attempt to continue to lead a minority administration. He is known to favour a June polling day.

In recent private conversations with senior ministers, Mr

Begin has repeatedly emphasized his unwillingness to soldier on until November with a Government dependent on the support of parliamentary splinter groups or the uncertain loyalties of the Knesset's many one-man factions. A final decision on whether to try to find a new majority or go to the country will be taken tomorrow.

Mr Begin is also known to have stated his preference for ending his term of office "honourably" by initiating legislation for an early election, rather than seeing his Government brought down by a vote of no confidence or by an early election Bill initiated by the Opposition. Such a legislative move would leave him in charge of a caretaker Government until the elections.

Tonight a delighted Mr Peres announced that the Labour Party would now be seeking to introduce such an early election Bill. He said that the party was stepping up preparations for an election which, he hoped, could take place within two months. But Govern-



Mr Hurwitz after the Cabinet meeting yesterday.

ment officials firmly dismissed the possibility of such an early poll.

Last week Mr Peres—who was confirmed in December as the undisputed leader of the Labour Party—decided to post-

pone a scheduled trip to Washington in order to take advantage of the coalition crisis over the teachers' pay. Ever since Mr Begin's Government narrowly escaped defeat on a no confidence vote in November Mr Peres has been calling for an early end to its term.

Mr Hurwitz's resignation tonight came after a Cabinet vote of 11 to 2 in favour of accepting in principle the recommendations of an independent report sanctioning pay rises for Israeli teachers of between 30 and 60 per cent.

Behind the immediate issue of pay, the crisis for teachers was the knowledge that the outcome would affect the Government's future.

The Finance Minister claimed that approving the report would undermine his pay policy by opening the floodgates to pay demands from other professional groups. He made his stand at a time when Israeli inflation is approaching 200 per cent.

Grenade attack, page 4

## 50 prisoners to suspend Maze 'dirty protest'

From Christopher Thomas  
Belfast

Hopes rose last night of a breakthrough to end the "dirty protest" by more than 400 republican prisoners at the Maze prison, near Belfast.

About 50 prisoners, due to be moved to clean, furnished cells today or tomorrow, say that they will not damage the furniture or smear the walls with excrement.

The move comes after an announcement by the Northern Ireland Office on Friday that some prisoners would be moved to furnished cells "as further evidence of the Government's sincerity".

The men will soon be issued with official clothing, which has consistently been rejected, but it is not known whether they will receive their own clothes for wearing at the permitted times.

Abandoning the "dirty protest" will still leave them in breach of other rules. A statement by all the protesting republican prisoners at the Maze said yesterday: "We view the proposed move with acute scepticism, given the treacherous manner in which the Government has 'baited' the protest, especially since the ending of the hunger strike."

However, as a gesture of our sincerity in wishing to end the protest in a principled fashion, we have agreed that all prisoners matched by the proposed move will not sell their cells for such a period of time as will facilitate the process which has been outlined to us."



Moving house: President Carter and his brother Billy visiting a house at Plains, which will become his office when his term ends.

## 'Tales' about disunity in Labour ranks denied by Mr Foot

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

With Mr David Steel, the Liberal Party leader, poised to make a fresh appeal to dissident Labour MPs to consider forming a social democratic alliance with Liberals in the Commons, Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader, yesterday said he did not believe "those tales" that the Labour Party was disunited or in bad heart.

He conceded that the party still had some questions to work out, but when parties went into opposition that was the time for reappraisal. "We have done it before and we have enabled the Labour Party to come forward at a critical moment of our history to help save the country, and that is going to be the position at the next general election," he said.

Although Mr Foot spoke out strongly yesterday in favour of the Parliamentary Labour Party having at least half of the votes in the next election, he said that the party's electoral chances could also be affected by the reselection process. It was put to Mr Foot yesterday, in an interview in the BBC radio programme *The World This Week*, that a large number of sitting MPs might be discarded by constituency parties and that they might stand as independents against official party candidates, if only to serve their party in the House of Commons.

Mr Foot said he did not think the process would have any of the serious consequences which some commentators had described. If a member of the PLP submitted himself as a future candidate, the constituency, under the party constitution, had the right to make a choice. He did not think a man not reselected was entitled to say that thereafter he was going to stand at the election or say he was "going to act out of spite".

When it was pointed out that a pensioner would depend upon it, Mr Foot said: "That is another question. Maybe some adjustment can be made in the parliamentary arrangements: it is something I cannot decide. It is a matter for the House of Commons."

On the eve of the reassembly of Parliament, Mr Foot concentrated his fire on the Government's economic policies which he called "utterly disastrous". "I am not quite sure which is the most threatening: the fear of a new economic crisis, or the fear of a new political crisis," he said.

"What we are witnessing is the death of monetarism, the death of the policy on which Mrs Thatcher fought the last election. I believe that that policy has, indeed, led to and greatly intensified the serious consequences of the world slump."

"So far from offering cures, she and her Government have now become part of the disease, because many of the measures they are taking are throwing people out of work at a rate of something like 3,000 a week."

The scale of the disaster was apparently not understood by Mrs Thatcher, he said, who stood by other people, including members of her Cabinet and the House of Commons. There had never been such disillusionment with a Government on its own back benches as he had seen in the recent period.

It was true that Mrs Thatcher had produced some figures as grounds for optimism, but they had to be seen against the collapse of British manufacturing.

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## New battles in El Salvador make martial law likely

San Salvador, Jan 11—Heavy fighting between left-wing guerrillas and government forces continued throughout El Salvador today, making it likely that martial law will be proclaimed, official sources said.

No details of casualties were available but army sources and eyewitnesses reported seeing many bodies, particularly in Santa Ana, a city about 40 miles from the capital where the guerrillas launched what they call a final offensive last night, attacking police and army units in many towns during a concerted operation. They seized a radio station here and urged the people to rise against the civilian-military junta and prepare for a general strike.

In Santa Ana about 70 soldiers, led by a captain, rebelled. A colonel and four soldiers were killed as the

rebel troops fought their way to join local guerrillas.

One Santa Ana eyewitness said: "During the gunbattles the guerrillas, using loudspeakers from apartment windows, urged the townspeople to join the uprising."

The official sources said that martial law and a night curfew in force in the town of Zacatecoluca was likely to be extended to the whole country if the fighting intensified.

At midnight the right-wing regime claimed, in a broadcast here that the guerrilla offensive had been brought under control.

More than 9,000 people died last year in the political violence which has swept the country since General Carlos Humberto Romero, the military ruler, was overthrown in October, 1979. Reuters and Agence France-Press.

Leading article, page 11

## French troops fly to central Africa

From Ian Murray  
Paris, Jan 11

The first French units to reinforce security in countries bordering Chad after its merger with Libya last week left for the Central African Republic this weekend.

They are drawn from the third regiment of the 9th Marine Infantry Division and from the 11th Parachute Division, the main groups on permanent standby for overseas duty.

Other units could be sent soon to Senegal, Gabon and Niger in keeping with France's promise to stand by those African countries which might feel threatened by Libyan expansion. In addition, the Air Force is preparing to send a Jaguar squadron to back up the four fighters already based in Libreville.

The speed with which France has sent troops to the Central African Republic is a clear indication of its concern that the

Government of President David Dacko, put in office by France after the overthrow of Emperor Bokassa, is not yet stable.

The Central African Liberation Movement, set up in Lagos last month to work for the overthrow of the Dacko Government, condemned the French move as "the recolonisation of our country". It called on Central Africans not to collaborate with the French soldiers and to follow a policy of passive resistance.

Mr Abdou Diouf, President of Senegal, welcomed the French move after the "inadmissible and unjustifiable" merger between Chad and Libya. His country would remain vigilant against any attempt by Libya to make it part of a "United States of the Sahara".

Mr Jean Francois-Poncet, the French Foreign Minister who is touring west Africa, said that the fact that France has affirmed with so much clarity that it is deter-

mined to stand by its long-standing African friends, who are worried and preoccupied, has been greeted with great satisfaction.

The solidarity pledge: At the end of a visit to Abidjan, Mr Francois-Poncet, who met French ambassadors to about twenty west and central African countries, said: "Our African friends can count on us. France's solidarity will not be lacking when they appeal for it."

Agence France-Press. Gaddafi move: Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, is sending more troops to Chad to counter the French decision to reinforce its troops base in the Central African Republic, a leftist newspaper said today in Beirut.

Thousands of demonstrators marched to the French Embassy in Tripoli today in protest against the movement of the French troops.

The Paris Press said that the Government's "aggressive stand" on the merger between Chad and Libya.—UPI.

## Patriotic Front takes stock of Mugabe snub

The Patriotic Front party of Mr Joshua Nkomo, who has rejected his demotion from Minister of Home Affairs in Zimbabwe's Cabinet reshuffle on Saturday, meets this week to take stock after the snub. Mr Edgar Tekere, who has lost his Cabinet post, says he will work on in the Prime Minister's party; but his future as its secretary-general is uncertain.

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## Warning for Tehran from Mr Reagan

President-elect Ronald Reagan has given a warning to the Iranians over the hostages issue. If the present negotiations with Tehran have not been resolved by the time he takes office on January 20, the incoming Administration will wipe the slate clean and start again, he said.

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## Airline and computer firm seek state aid

British Airways and ICL, Britain's largest computer company, are both expected to ask for government money to tide them over until the end of the 1980-81 financial year. The state airline is expected to lose around £60m this year, and ICL's profits were down 46 per cent to £25.1m.

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## Wider power to ban marches studied

A new power to ban marches on the grounds that they are likely to provoke race hatred is being studied by the Home Office. The move is part of a review of the Public Order Act, under which the only reason a demonstration can be banned is the likelihood of serious public disorder.

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## Mr Murdoch ponders

Mr Rupert Murdoch, the proprietor of *The Sun* and the *News of the World*, confirmed that he was considering making a bid for *The Times*, its supplements, and *The Sunday Times*. He said: "We are investigating the figures that have been submitted to us."

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## Mr MacDonald dies

Mr Malcolm MacDonald, OM, Britain's roving ambassador under successive postwar governments, and son of Mr Ramsay MacDonald, the first Labour Prime Minister, died yesterday at his home in Kent, aged 78. He was a Cabinet minister before becoming a diplomat.

Obituary, page 12

## Water strike vote

As the Government draws up contingency plans to use troops in the event of a strike by water and sewerage workers, the National Union of Public Employees is asking its members to vote on whether to strike.

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Letters: On Palestine, from Mr Anwar Nashashibi, and Mr John Reddaway; clarifying criminal law, from Mr A. T. J. Smith; wetlands conservation, from Mr John Farrow.

Leading articles: Mr Nkomo's demotion; The seamen's strike; El Salvador.

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Paul Routledge on the ballot at British Steel; the right to know, by Peter Jay; the Ballad of Judge Lee, by Michael Leapman; Philip Howard's new words and new meanings.

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Patrick J. Smith on *Lulu* at the Metropolitan Opera, New York; Michael Ratcliffe on *ITV's Playing for Time*; Philip Howard talks to John Corbett, William Hanna, of the Park Lane Group Young Artists series; Stanley Sadie on the London Baroque Ensemble.

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Tennis: Australians win doubles final at Olympia; Golf: Holmes in President's Putter for third time; Hockey: England draw with Australia in Champion's Trophy.

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The Right Hon Malcolm MacDonald, Mr Ronald Britain, Richard Roome.

Business, pages 13-18

Financial Editor: Steady advance of the Tokyo stock market; Inland Revenue stock relief scheme criticized.

Management: The transition to current cost accounting; benefits of the teaching company scheme.

Business features: David Hewson on prospects for the package holiday trade; Robert Hobbs looks at the EEC anti-trust allegations against IBM.

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## HOME NEWS

## Mr Murdoch giving Times group bid serious consideration

By Dan van der Vat

Mr Rupert Murdoch, proprietor of the Sun and the News of the World, confirmed at the weekend that he was seriously considering taking over The Times, its three supplements, and The Sunday Times.

Asked whether he would be making a bid and whether it would be successful, Mr Murdoch said: "I do not know if it will be successful. We might be making a bid, yes. We are considering it."

He emphasized that there had not yet been serious negotiations with Thomson British Holdings, the company seeking to sell Times Newspapers on behalf of Lord Thomson of Fleet. "We have asked for the figures and in fact we are investigating the figures that have been submitted to us."

Mr Murdoch, who also owns a chain of newspapers in his native Australia and has other interests in the United States, said it was possible that his company, News International, would make a bid for all five titles.

The prime aim of Thomson's is to sell the entire company to a single purchaser as a going concern by the middle of March.

Asked if he was concerned about the Monopolies Commission's reaction to his putative bid for the entire company, Mr Murdoch said: "I think it is a matter of whether the papers live or die. It is not a question of monopoly. There is no way in which The Times is going to start competing with The Sun."

Monopoly legislation requires commission approval of a news-

paper takeover by a person or group already owning titles with a circulation exceeding 500,000.

Mr Murdoch, in an interview with the BBC Radio Four programme *The World this Week-end*, would not be drawn on whether he found the figures supplied to him by the merchant bankers S. G. Warburg, on behalf of Thomson's, sufficiently attractive to warrant a bid. He made clear that he wanted to know more, but if matters progressed "it would certainly involve negotiations with the unions and the workforce as much as with the Thomson Organization."

If he acquired the newspapers, would he change them? "Oh no, no, you would not dream of changing them at all," Mr Murdoch said.

Thomson British Holdings plans to name publicly the most convincing bidder, in the company's view, for the whole of Times Newspapers by the end of this month. It then envisages allowing two weeks for the would-be proprietor to conclude or make convincing progress in negotiations with the printing unions, whereupon he will be asked to make his bid unconditional.

Negotiations with the unions will be concerned with new technology, meaning levels, and guarantees of uninterrupted production. If they fail, Thomson's will not conduct an auction, rather he will sell all the titles but will immediately move to consider bids for the various parts of Times Newspapers, which include offers from consortiums formed by editors and staff journalists.

## Switch to sixth-form colleges criticized

By John Witherow

The idea of establishing more sixth-form colleges separate from comprehensive schools is attacked by the National Council for Educational Standards today as a threat to academic levels in universities and schools.

"This will be a disaster for British education," it says in a statement. "It is a standard in the sixth form which will destroy university education as it exists today."

The authors of the report, Mrs Caroline Cox, chairman of the council, and Dr John Marks, its administrator, were responding to rumours that the Macfarlane committee, which is preparing a report on educational provisions for 16 to 19 year-olds, might favour the replacement of school sixth forms with sixth-form colleges.

"A decline in school sixth-form standards means an inevitable decline in university and polytechnic standards," the document continues. "The consequences of this will be catastrophic. Our professions will decline in quality. Both economic and cultural life will be affected."

Mrs Cox and Dr Marks, both contributors to the right-wing *Black Papers* on education, supported their warnings by

saying that comprehensive schools would be "decapitated".

Many councils, hard-pressed by financial restraints, are seriously considering changing to sixth-form colleges, which would be divided over the issue of sixth-form colleges but is expected to conclude in its favour.

Cost-saving schools: Britain's independent schools are saving the country at least £300m, the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS) says in a leaflet described as "a counter-blast to the Labour Party's proposal to abolish independent education."

In the leaflet, it says the average independent school year in daily running costs, mainly teachers' salaries, and £1,500m in capital costs. The state would otherwise have to educate about half a million children attending independent and direct-grant schools.

Freedom under fire (Independent Schools Information Service, 26 Caxton Street, London SW1H 0RG).

## Imprisonment rate again high in Dorset

By Michael Legal Correspondent

For the third year in succession, magistrates in Dorset have sent a larger proportion of convicted men to jail than any other bench of magistrates in England and Wales, according to the Bristol group of the Prisoners' Association.

The group has for the past four years made a "ball and chain" award to the court with the highest proportional imprisonment rate, based on the official statistics for 1979.

In 1979, the most recent year for which figures are available, the Dorset bench imposed immediate imprisonment on 13.9 per cent of adult males convicted of indictable offences. At the other end of the scale, Gwent magistrates passed sentences of imprisonment on only 4.6 per cent. The national average was 8.6 per cent.

## Increase in VD worst among girls under 20

The past decade's increase in venereal disease has been worst among girls under 20, it was disclosed yesterday.

Cases of gonorrhoea among that group went up by three and half times between 1965 and the mid-1970s, according to the second annual survey of sexual transmitted diseases by the Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre, published in the *British Medical Journal*.

Cases affecting the mouth and throat, though, continue to rise and doubled in both sexes between 1976 and 1979. Cases of public lice rose by 10 per cent to 3,272 in 1979 from the previous year. The report repeats a warning given last year, about a new strain of resistant gonorrhoea, first isolated in United States servicemen who returned from the Philippines in 1976.



Bishop Ireneo, of the Greek Orthodox Church casts a cross into the water, to be retrieved by Peter Charou at the annual blessing of the seas at Margate yesterday.

## Unemployment seen as cause of more joining community volunteer force

By Ian Bradley

More young people are coming forward to do voluntary service in the community, the annual report of Community Service Volunteers (CSV), published today, says.

During the year that ended on March 31, 1980, CSV found full-time voluntary work for more than 3,500 young people. They included school-leavers, children in care, graduates, borstal trainees, young prisoners, police cadets, and the unemployed.

After falling in the second half of the 1970s, the number of school-leavers applying to do a period of full-time community service is increasing again. In the last six months of 1980, CSV received 1,553 applications for its main volunteer programme, an increase

of 400 compared to the corresponding period of 1979.

Mrs Elizabeth Hoodless, executive director of CSV, said that increasing unemployment, and the enforced leisure that went with it, must be seen as the main cause of the record growth. In 1980, 35 per cent of those working in the main volunteer programme were registered as unemployed, compared with only 27 per cent in 1979.

Mrs Hoodless said that CSV was having discussions with the Voluntary Services Unit of the Home Office over providing more government funds to expand the main volunteer programme. Consultations are also going on with the Manpower Services Commission about specific schemes to involve the young unemployed.

The report, which covers the

year in which CSV celebrated its eighteenth anniversary, gives a cautious welcome to the Conservative Government.

Mrs Hoodless said that a recent Gallup Poll indicated that 61 per cent of the public would support the introduction of a full-time, non-military community service scheme. "That finding conflicts with the views of many of the staff in youth organizations," she said.

Discussion about the feasibility of setting up such a scheme is likely to be one of the items on the agenda of a conference in two weeks' time organized by the Voluntary Services Unit in association with the National Council for Voluntary Organizations.

The conference is to be held in Swanswick, Dorset, from January 23 to 25.

## Sunday shop laws likely to stay

By a Staff Reporter

A Home Office review of the anomalies of Sunday trading laws is not expected to support a reform of the law in the near future, despite pressure from MPs.

The findings of the review, set up last year by Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State at the Home Office, have yet to go to ministers, but they are unlikely to favour immediate legislation.

Yesterday the Home Office said it could not say what the findings were, but added that there was unlikely to be time for government legislation in the foreseeable future.

The findings will mean that ministerial support is unlikely for the private members' Bill now being promoted by Sir Anthony Meyer, Conservative MP for Flint, West, which would legalize the sale of food, sportswear, furniture, and records on Sundays.

Sir Anthony's Bill is the latest in a long line of attempts to regularize the Sunday trading laws. Last summer Mr Clement Freud, Liberal MP for the Isle of Ely, unsuccessfully tried to promote a Bill for reform.

The review was set up after Mr Raison had told the Commons that the Shops Act, 1950, did contain anomalies. For example, shopkeepers could sell "girlie" magazines on Sundays but not bibles.

The National Consumer Council says that research shows a substantial demand for Sunday opening. Mr Richard Weir, of the Retail Consortium, however, says there is no evidence that the majority wants it.

## Studies of ulcer drug are to be continued

By Nicholas Timmins

The Committee on Safety of Medicines said yesterday that there was no immediate cause for alarm over suggestions that Tagamet, a widely used drug for the treatment of ulcers, may be linked to the development of cancer.

An official said the committee had been keeping a close watch since suspicions were first raised two years ago that the drug may be linked to cancer of the gut.

Tagamet is now prescribed for about 150,000 people in Britain. It has been taken by about one million people in Britain.

Smith Kline and French, the manufacturers, said yesterday that there was no data to show

that there was any link between the drug and gastric carcinoma. Long-term studies in animals and humans were continuing. "The results to date give us no cause for concern."

Questions were first raised when three cases came to light of patients developing early cancers after treatment with the drug for some time.

Professor Denis Parke, Professor of Biochemistry at Surrey University, and a member of the committee, said yesterday that "there is no immediate cause for alarm."

Until a considerable amount of research that was now under way in Britain, the United States, and West Germany was completed, "we cannot really say one way or another."

## Black groups to ask for job creation schemes

Representatives from 32 black organizations in Britain yesterday condemned the Government's lack of action in eradicating racial discrimination and for failing to alleviate high unemployment among ethnic minorities.

A meeting organized by the Confederation of Indian Organizations (United Kingdom) drew up a resolution that will be sent to Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment. They will seek a meeting with him to ask for job creation schemes.

"We wish to put an end to the disparity between jobless whites and jobless blacks," Mr Tara Mukherjee, president of the confederation, said.

## Lord Kagan's fines are cut to £56,000

Fines totalling £105,000 on Lord Kagan, jailed last month for theft and falsifying accounts, were reduced to £56,000 by a High Court judge in London on Friday.

Mr Justice Jupp made the reduction to take account of £73,000 and a quantity of indigo dye which he said he was satisfied had been given to Lord Kagan's company, Kagan Textiles.

The fines were imposed by the same judge at Leeds Crown Court, with heavier fines on the Kagan family firm, Celloform (Yorkshire), after Lord Kagan admitted four counts of stealing indigo dye from Kagan Textiles and three charges of falsifying accounts.

## WEST EUROPE

## M Marchais seizes on immigration issue

From Ian Murray

Paris, Jan 11. The French Communist Party is seeking to make immigration policy—or what it sees as the lack of it—a major issue in the forthcoming presidential elections.

M. Georges Marchais, the party leader, made the subject the main topic of his speech to a large party rally in Paris on Friday night. It was, he told his enthusiastic audience, "inadmissible to allow immigrant workers into France at a time when we have two million French and immigrant people on the dole."

The party, he said, had no lessons to learn from anyone about fighting racism. That was why the Communists would persist in airing the problems caused by the existence of ghettos—a problem created by the refusal of the Government to integrate immigrants into the community.

According to M. Marchais, too strong a concentration of immigrants in an area created tension among the population, increased the social charges on the ratepayers and generally retarded education.

Yesterday, he put the theory of his speech into practice when he led 10,000 marchers to Vitry, the Paris suburb, in support of M. Paul Mercieca, the Communist Mayor of Vitry.

On Christmas Eve, M. Mercieca had led a demolition squad which tried to make a hostel uninhabitable to force out 300 Malians who had been moved there from the nearby town of St Maur.

As the demonstrators marched through the town, headed by the Communist mayors of the area wearing their tricolour scarves, residents of subsidized housing estates untied banners saying "No to ghettos in Vitry."

Afterwards M. Mercieca said that the town already had 28 per cent of its school places filled by African children and paid 50 per cent of its social security funds to immigrants. "We do no more unless we deprive French workers," he said.

The Malians at the hotel are all Muslims. The Communist Federation of Ile de France, in Brittany, this weekend changed its mind about supporting the building of an Islamic centre in Rennes with the help of 750,000 francs (£75,000) from municipal funds.

## Villages cut off as blizzards sweep Spain

Madrid, Jan 11.—Snowstorms swept northern and central Spain today, isolating villages, closing mountain passes and forcing the cancellation of numerous sports events.

Highway police said many roads were like skating rinks, and that although there were no serious accidents, numerous cars had skidded off roads and overturned.

In the Catalan capital of Barcelona firemen cleared snow from the city's approach roads while in the northern province of Leon helicopter pilots dropped food to mountain villages isolated by drifts. By midday blizzards had spread to the central province of Burgos, reaching depths of 50cms.—UPI.

Relief efforts in Italy relied workers fought through snow-drifts to reach villages stricken by November's earthquake in the Avelino area east of Naples (four Rome Correspondents writes). The 40,000 still in huts after the Belice valley earth-quake in 1963 remained without heating in subzero temperatures because of a power failure.

## Aegean aid shareout worries Athens

From Mario Mediano

Athens, Jan 11. Greece has protested to the outgoing Carter Administration that its recommendations to Congress for military aid to Greece and Turkey may upset the balance of power between them.

The United States Government informed Athens and Ankara that it is proposing to grant defence assistance worth \$260m (£108m) to Greece and \$400m to Turkey. Ankara will also be given economic aid worth \$300m.

The Greek side argues that this is a departure from the traditional seven-to-ten ratio that Athens somehow considers vital for maintaining an equilibrium between the two coun-

## The Pope appeals to Red Brigades to set free condemned judge

From John Earle

Rome, Jan 11. The Pope today appealed for the release of Dr Giovanni D'Urso, the judge whom the Red Brigades' kidnappers have threatened to kill unless the press publishes in full by tomorrow night proclamations by their fellow members held in maximum security jails.

At his Sunday appearance to the crowds in St Peter's Square, the Pope said he prayed that the judge, who was seized on December 12, could be returned as soon as possible to his family.

"I beg the Lord," he went on, "to touch the souls of those who have in their hands the person and the life of the magistrate, that they may reflect on the gravity of their attitude and heed the feeling of humanity which cannot be extinguished in their hearts."

Most leading newspapers have refused to accept the ultimatum of the Red Brigades, contained in a message running to two and-a-half pages. *Comuniqué* No 9 said: "We have no intention of prolonging the imprisonment of D'Urso longer than necessary, and if within 48 hours of the publication of this communiqué we do not read fully in the leading Italian daily newspapers the communiqués issued by the organisms of the masses in Trani and Palmi, we will proceed to execute the sentence to which D'Urso has been condemned."

The terrorists detained in the maximum security jails of Trani and Palmi in the south of Italy have in the past week received a series of visits from, among others, the publisher of the *L'Espresso* magazine, who is suspected of being the go-between who arranged the interview with *L'Espresso* and may be the "interlocutor" who undertook the questioning of Dr D'Urso.

The press and television have been provided with photographs of Signor Senzani, who disappeared from his home some weeks ago. He was a consultant to the Ministry of Justice and, as such, had a permit to visit prisons, including those of maximum security.

Signor Giancarlo Severini, the director of Udine prison, today offered himself as a hostage in exchange for Dr D'Urso. Signor Severini, a friend of the D'Urso family, said he had already contacted the Justice Ministry and he wished to make known to the press his "full availability" to try to save Dr D'Urso's life.

## Debré challenge to Chirac leadership of Gaullists

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Jan 11. M. Michel Debré, the self-declared Gaullist candidate in the presidential election, produced his most bitter attack yet on President Giscard d'Estaing in a rousing speech to his campaign supporters last night.

He also threatened to take over control of the party from M. Jacques Chirac if the present Gaullist leader failed to support him in the elections.

For the first time M. Debré said he hoped that the President would not finish a second term in office. "One seven-year term—alas!" he said. "Two seven-year terms—too much!"

The latest opinion poll shows that M. Debré would win as many votes as M. Chirac in the first round of the election, which is a substantial advance for him. Neither Gaullist, however, would win more than 11 per cent support according to the IFOP poll published in *Le Point*.

The President would still win the second round with a 54 per cent poll against 46 per cent by M. François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader. This is six per cent less than the President scored in the last IFOP poll in November.

## Roman conquest of traffic

From Our Own Correspondent

Rome, Jan 11. Signor Luigi Petroselli, the Communist Mayor of Rome, today outlined five measures as a first step in making the whole area from the Capitol and the Via Appia Antica a traffic-free zone for the benefit of the public and for archaeological research.

1. Via Della Consolazione, immediately under his offices on the Capitoli Hill, is being dug up to restore its unity with the Forum.

2. On the Capitol, a commission is ascertaining the stability of what remains of the old Tabularium or Record Office, dating 78 BC.

3. The statue of Emperor Marcus Aurelius was removed from the horse, yesterday, for restoration.

4. The city has approved a scheme to introduce in four months, a new system of traffic circulation around the Colosseum, which will ban the area of the Arch of Constantine to traffic.

5. From February 1 Mussolini's Via Dei Fori Imperiali, which cuts across the Forum, will be closed to traffic on Sundays in the stretch leading from Piazza Venezia, half way to the Colosseum. The mayor is to announce on Tuesday the formation of a commission to report on its definite closure at a later date.

From the grassroots: Sitting MP says new area is dominated by Conservative voters

## Boundary changes threat to Labour in Lake District

By Michael Hatfield

Political Reporter

Parliamentary constituency boundaries can be like storm clouds: push them around too much and there is liable to be political thunder and lightning.

Parties will protest that either they have been robbed of traditional support or that the Boundary Commission has bounced into a constituency additional electors who could upset the sitting MP's majority.

The commission's proposals for Cumbria have had precisely that effect where they concern Whitehaven.

Under the changes, the controlling constituency Labour Party and Mr John Cunningham, the sitting Labour MP, direct a deep depression coming up from the south-east of the constituency which could turn it into a Conservative seat.

In reviewing the whole of Cumbria, the commission has tacked on to Whitehaven, extending its area by 200 square miles: the Lonsdale part of what is at present Mercaumb and Lonsdale, where the Tories command well over half the votes.

Though the addition takes in some of the most beautiful parts of the Lake District, in-



cluding Conistone Water, and runs down the side of Windermere. Mr Cunningham wants none of it.

"It is Indian territory as far as we are concerned," he says. "There are about 13,000 electors in the new area but we do not hold a single council seat, and I would estimate that the ratio of Tories to Labour is about eight to one."

When Mr Cunningham was elected in 1970, Labour had a 16.6 per cent majority with an electorate of 50,326, and the majority had been reduced to 12.6 per cent with an additional

2,500 voters on the electoral register in 1979. His majority is expected to vanish under the proposals of the commission, which has aimed to equalize the size of the electorate in each of the six Cumbrian constituencies.

It is not only the Labour Party which takes that view (Mr Cunningham is having second thoughts about moving his home from Chesters Street, to Durham, to live in his constituency if the proposals are not changed, but also the Conservatives, who believe they have the proposed seat within their grasp.

Such is the confidence that Mr Leon Brittan, when he was Minister of State for the Rome Office responsible for the Boundary Commission, although not its individual review, was indiscreet enough to boast at a Conservative meeting in Egremont, within the constituency in November: "I am very confident of our future. The idea that this constituency is a socialist possession is going to be knocked sky-high."

The objections to the changes were heard formally in Kendal Town Hall in December. Political parties are not allowed to argue a political

case but can demonstrate the inconveniences that could be caused to their own organizational structure, the ties and traditions that would be broken within the community, and the geographical considerations that should be taken into account.

The three-day inquiry was into the whole of the proposals for Cumbria, not just Whitehaven, affecting the constituencies of, among others, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, and Mr Michael Jopling, the Government Chief Whip, who both remain safe on the commission's proposed roundabout. Three other Labour seats, Workington, Carlisle and Barrow-in-Furness, maintain their Labour majorities.

While Labour concentrated its case on the defence of Whitehaven, which will become Copeland under the commission's plan, the Cumbrian Conservatives lodged objections to the totality of the proposal. They argued that in re-defining the parliamentary boundaries there was too large a gap between the lowest constituency electorate, 53,279, and the highest, 66,699. They

proposed changes that would have narrowed the gap. More to the point, they want to take the town of Whitehaven out of the constituency and merge it with Workington into a new constituency.

The Conservatives also proposed that part of Mr Whitelaw's constituency of Penrith and the Border should be put into the Carlisle seat, and thereby change the real political nub of the Tory plan.

Cumbria's six constituencies divide four Labour and two Conservative at present. Under the Tory proposals, Labour would lose one seat with the merging of Whitehaven and Workington, and another with the proposed Copeland going Conservative. The redefined Carlisle constituency, under their proposal, could also return a Conservative.

Labour argued that the commission's proposals for Whitehaven paid no regard to the geography, communications, demography, or community of interest.

The commission has yet to announce the result of the inquiry, but the impression gained is that Labour has put forward a good case and that the Conservative Party may have been a little too greedy.

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## OVERSEAS

## Reagan team will take hostages issue back to the beginning

From David Cross  
Washington, Jan 11  
The present negotiations with Tehran over the release of the 52 American hostages are not expected to get underway until January 20 when he takes office, the Iranian authorities will have to deal with a "clean slate", from the incoming Administration. President-elect Ronald Reagan said today.

In an interview with the weekly magazine *US News and World Report* Mr Reagan also said that he has a "serious doubt" that a government really exists in Tehran. It was unclear whether Ayatollah Khomeini was "needed" any more as head of the government, he said.

"That's part of the great confusion over there," Mr Reagan said, expressing the hope that the people of some sense and moderation "will take over control in Tehran. He said he felt that the greatest danger came from the left. The Marxist Tudeh Party was waiting for a chance to reach a point where it might be able to move in."

In a television interview, Mr James Baker, who is to be chief of staff in Mr Reagan's White House, said today that it was "possible" that the President-elect might disagree with a settlement reached by the outgoing Administration of President Carter over how much money should be returned to

Iran. In such a case he would expect the two men to get together to sort out their differences, Mr Baker said.

Tehran, Jan 11. A breakthrough in the hostages issue is likely before the Carter Administration leaves office, a diplomatic source close to the discussions said today.

I think you will have good news, the source said, adding that considerable progress had been made in recent days in the American-Iranian exchanges conducted through Algerian intermediaries.

The source said the Iranians were still trying to get better terms from the United States Government. Only four days ago the same source, who refused to be named, predicted that the negotiations would drag on past January 20 because of legal and technical problems.

Adding to the rising optimism the newspaper *Enghelab-E-Eslami* (Islamic Revolution) today quoted Mr Ahmad Azizi, the negotiator in the issue, as saying Iran had accepted Algerian proposals on the dispute over the demand for multi-million dollar guarantees from the United States.

Iran's response to the latest American counter-proposals on the release terms would be delivered to the Algerian mediators tomorrow or Tuesday, the paper said.

A spokesman for Mr Azizi's office declined to confirm or deny the report.—Reuter.

## Fastest Antarctic crossing completed by Britons

A three-man British team yesterday completed the longest and fastest crossing of Antarctica. The expedition, led by Mr Charles Burton and Mr Oliver Shepard, members of the Transglobe Expedition, reached Scott Base, the permanent New Zealand survey camp, in 75 days after travelling 2,600 miles.

The team, which set out to make camp 18 miles from the base in sub-zero temperatures when one of its motorized snow vehicles broke down.

A repair team was sent from the base with a dog sled to help bring them in. They were greeted by a piper when they arrived at the base, but their

priorities were a sauna, fresh food and sleep, a spokesman for the expedition said in London.

Their support ship is expected to reach the camp in about a week's time after breaking through the pack ice.

The three-year expedition is circumnavigating the globe over the North and South Poles. The expedition arrived in the Antarctic 11 months ago on the opposite side of McMurdo Sound.

The only previous Antarctic crossing was made by Sir Vivian Fuchs and Sir Edmund Hillary in 1957-58. They took 99 days to travel 2,250 miles.

## Nkomo men take stock of Mugabe snub

From Stephen Taylor  
Salisbury, Jan 11  
Discussion was postponed today by the central committee of Mr Joshua Nkomo's Patriotic Front party on the demotion of its leader announced in a Cabinet reshuffle yesterday by Mr Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's Prime Minister.

Mr Nkomo, the former Minister of Home Affairs, was to have told Mr Mugabe tomorrow whether he would accept the portfolio of public service.

Yesterday Mr Nkomo was quoted by the Ziana news agency as saying: "I do not see my way to accepting this." He was also reported as saying that his dismissal was a violation of an agreement between the two parties to share the ministries with responsibility for security. As Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Nkomo had control of the police.

Mr Edgar Tekere, who was accused last month of the murder of a white farmer, was dismissed in the reshuffle as Minister of Manpower, Planning and Development.

The reshuffle, which was the first since Mr Mugabe's Government came to power last April, promoted Mr Richard Hove to Minister of Home Affairs from the portfolio of public service.

Mr Simon Muzenda was replaced as Foreign Minister by Mr Winesang Mangwende, former Deputy Minister. He retains the deputy premiership and will have special responsibility for coordination.

Mr Tekere's place in the Cabinet is to be taken by Mr Frederick Shumba, the Government Chief Whip.

One of the most powerful men in the new Cabinet is Mr Emmerson Mungaga, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, who is to take over some of the functions of the defence portfolio, which is held by Mr Mugabe.

Two new ministers—industry and energy development, and community development and women's affairs—are to be held by Mr Simbarashe Makoni, the former Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and Mrs Teauri Nhoongo, the former Minister of Youth, Recreation and Sport.

Leading article, page 11



Storms on Turkey's Aegean coast have flooded Izmir, where rescuers look for stranded residents

## MP critical of Afghan news reports

Islamabad, Jan 11.—Mr Ronald Brown, a Labour MP who has just ended a 10-day visit to Afghanistan, described as "wrong and false" Western news reports on the Afghan situation, according to Kabul radio.

The broadcast monitored here at the weekend said Mr Brown (Edinburgh, Leith) made the statement in an interview with the official Bakhtar news agency. It said the delegation of three Labour MPs was convinced that the people of Afghanistan supported their pro-Soviet government.

On Saturday the group, which includes Mr Allan Roberts (Bosley) and Mr Robert Litherland (Manchester Central), visited the important eastern city of Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar province, and the Turkhan post on the border with Pakistan, Kabul radio said.

A group of staff, during the final days of the Watergate scandal, had told journalists: "We are saying nothing until Tuesday".—AP.

## Mr Haig certain to be approved for Cabinet after Senate compromise

From David Cross  
Washington, Jan 11  
The controversial nomination of Mr Alexander Haig as Secretary of State in the new Administration is almost certain to be confirmed shortly by Congress after a compromise agreement among members of the Senate foreign relations committee about how they should handle his role in the Watergate affair.

The committee, which opened hearings on the nomination last Friday, agreed yesterday to take preliminary steps towards obtaining White House tape recordings involving Mr Haig and President Nixon during the final days of the scandal.

It decided to subpoena lists and indexes of about 100 hours of tapes now stored in the national archives here to try to determine which of them might be relevant to Mr Haig's confirmation as Secretary of State.

Mr Haig, who was White House Chief of Staff during the final chapter of Watergate, has told the committee that he has no objections to any of the tape recordings being sought by the Senate. He has testified under oath before the present hearings that he did nothing improper or illegal during his term of office.

The decision to subpoena lists of the tapes was opposed by most Republican members of the committee who feared that the reopening of the Watergate saga might embarrass the new Administration as well as delay Mr Haig's confirmation.

President-elect Ronald Reagan hopes that all his Cabinet nominations will be approved by the Senate shortly after he is sworn into office on January 20.

Reflecting the view of most Republicans, Senator Howard Baker, the Republican leader of the Upper House and a member of the Senate foreign relations committee, said an extended investigation of all the Watergate material could leave the United States without a Secretary of State "for months at a serious time in this nation's history and a dangerous time in the world".

But he and his Republican colleagues apparently went along with the decision to seek the tapes when Democrats on the committee promised that a final Senate vote on Mr Haig's nomination should not be put off if there is any delay in obtaining either the lists or the tapes themselves. There will almost certainly be little opposition from former President Nixon, in particular, to the release of the tapes.

The wrangle over the Watergate tapes took up much of the hearing time yesterday, but there was time for Mr Haig to outline his views on a number of topics including China, Cuba, the strategic arms limitation talks (Salt) and the highly conservative manifesto adopted by the Republicans during their national convention in Detroit last summer.

Mr Haig said that America's relations should be developed further, but they

should not function as an "irritant" to improve relations with Moscow. He would not rule out arms sales to China at some stage in the future.

On Cuba, Mr Haig said he expected relations to continue to be strained. It would be very difficult for me to support efforts towards normalization with Cuba so long as they are spawning, instigating, training and conducting terrorist activities in this hemisphere.

Mr Haig appeared to agree with Mr Casper Weinberger, nominated as Defence Secretary, when he said that he did not expect serious talks with the Soviet Union on Salt to resume until there had been a "rather dramatic improvement" in American military power.

It was announced this week that Mr Frank Carlucci, presently deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), would be Mr Weinberger's deputy in the Defence Department.

Finally Mr Haig made it clear that he does not intend to be bound by all of the policy positions adopted by the Republican Party during the Detroit convention. In a move which will undoubtedly disappoint some of Mr Reagan's most fervent conservative supporters he said he would not feel bound by documents that he had no role in drafting.

Mr Haig's confirmation hearings resume tomorrow and are expected to be completed mid-week.

## Suspended death sentence gives criminals two-year chance to reform

## China controls its prisons by divide-and-rule

The Chinese by David Bonavia, China correspondent of The Times, published this week. This, the first of three edited extracts from the book, describes China's penal system and how it is changing. Personal reform—moral and political—plays a large part in Chinese methods of dealing with criminals.

Physical conditions in jails appear to be reasonable, considering how low the standards of living are for the workers and peasants in the outside world. A former inmate of a large prison in Shanghai originally built by the British there before World War Two gives the following description of it.

Prisoners are segregated in different cell blocks. Block One holds spies, murderers and people sentenced to prison terms of more than 16 years. Block Two is for burglars, pickpockets and other minor criminals. Block Three is for "counter-revolutionaries", former capitalists, rapists, black marketeers and people with sentences between 10 and 15 years. Block Four is for prisoners serving sentences of one to 10 years. Block Five is for prisoners in poor health, and Block Six for women prisoners.

The prison has a printing press and sewing shop, but only prisoners nearing the end of their term with good conduct records are granted the privilege of working.

The day begins at 7 am with roll-call, time for washing, and breakfast of rice-gruel (congee). Between 8 and 11 there are political and ideological lectures. From 11 till 1 pm lunch is served—rice with vegetables, a little fish twice a week—and there is a rest period. From 1 till 5 pm there are more lectures, or for those who are permitted to work. Between 5 and 9 pm the prisoners are given supper (the same type of food as at lunch) and allowed some recreation. The usual "recreation" is to study the *People's Daily* in groups of 30; sometimes we are in time to play a little chess. Lights-out is at 9 pm. Once a week the prisoners are exercised by being allowed to walk round the cell block for half an hour.

Prisoners with good conduct records may receive one visitor a month and 15 minutes at a time. Once every two months prisoners may be allowed to play table-tennis in the recreation hall, or watch a highly propagandistic performance by a visiting drama troupe.

A bowl of water for washing is brought to each cell every morning by the trustees. There is a bucket for urinating and

defecating. In summer, prisoners have a bath once a week, and in winter once a month. Clean clothes are issued after the bath.

Treatment of convicts in China has varied according to the political mood in the national leadership. In periods of political fervour—such as the late 1950s, the Cultural Revolution—prisoners have been treated with brutality and contempt, on the assumption that their very criminality has shown their political rottenness, and regarded as enemies of the people who have been shorn of their Chinese citizenship.

The prison and labour camp authorities pursue a well-planned and systematic programme of divide-and-rule among the prisoners, sparing no effort to make each individual prisoner feel responsible to and dependent on the state, not on the loyalty or friendship of fellow-prisoners.

Punishments and rewards are designed to split up prisoner solidarity through instituting a system of privileges. Prisoners are routinely expected to denounce each other and to participate in "struggle sessions" against each other.

Though these disciplinary methods can be expected to persist, the new legal code aims to safeguard the rights of prisoners as Chinese citizens.

The Chinese have a unique

system of suspended capital punishment. Criminals may be executed for a whole life. Clean clothes are issued after the bath.

Methods of execution are largely the same everywhere in China, with small variations. The hands are bound and the victim taken to a small square or pit. A soldier or a doctor checks that he or she is dead. The relatives are later allowed to claim the body.

Sometimes there are group executions, carried out by members of the Public Security's special Judicial Squad, simultaneously firing pistols into the back of the necks or heads of a row of victims. A group of 15 to 20 is normally administered. Prisoners are not usually hooded or permitted to face the executioner.

The Chinese is published on Thursday by Allen Lane, price £7.95. It will be reviewed on publication day by Mr K. A. Qiu.

But the Chinese sources said that some Chinese leaders had now apparently swung the other way and it appeared a majority would support sparing Jiang Qing's life.

Trial hearings ended two weeks ago but after the latest verdict postponement, it was unclear when the 10 defendants would face the court for the last time though it was likely to be some time this week.—UPI.

They are keeping their children indoors and have come together to help the police investigation. Last night 500 blacks attended a prayer meeting to raise money for the victims' families.

Since last autumn groups of searchers have hunted for clues every weekend in the area where the children disappeared. They are organized by Mr Arthur Langford, a black city councillor. When the searches began several thousand volunteers turned out. Numbers had dwindled to about 100 until last week's developments.

The latest disappearance is quite typical, the police said. Geter, 14 and small for his age, was one of the victims who had been. He went out to spend a Saturday afternoon at a shopping centre selling air-freshener for motor cars.

The frustration of the search has provoked frayed tempers, accusations of police incompetence. Mr Lee Brown, the Police Commissioner, has come in for criticism. Both are black.

There has been tension between the police and Mr Langford's volunteers, who say they are being given inadequate official support.

## Peking may spare life of Jiang Qing

Peking, Jan 11.—After a bitter and protracted squabble most of China's leaders now appear ready to spare the life of Jiang Qing, Mao Tse-tung's widow, when she is sentenced on charges of treason, Chinese sources said today.

A likely compromise, long under review, would be a death sentence suspended for several years, a common practice in the Chinese legal system.

Mr Deng Xiaoping, the party's Vice-Chairman, denounced her as a woman "so evil, not enough evil can be said about her". Proponents of the death penalty argued that in a country where robbers and rapists are routinely executed, her crimes were far worse and she could not be allowed to escape the same fate.

But the Chinese sources said that some Chinese leaders had now apparently swung the other way and it appeared a majority would support sparing Jiang Qing's life.

Trial hearings ended two weeks ago but after the latest verdict postponement, it was unclear when the 10 defendants would face the court for the last time though it was likely to be some time this week.—UPI.

## Japanese ministers duck royal hunt

From Peter Hazelhurst  
Tokyo, Jan 11  
Overlooked during the country's rise as an industrial power, the subject of wildlife conservation has now become such a sensitive subject in Japan that the entire Cabinet was forced to turn down an invitation to participate in the imperial household's annual duck hunt yesterday.

A spokesman for Emperor Hirohito's imperial household in Tokyo today confirmed reports that no one in the Cabinet took part in the royal duck hunt held in Chiba Prefecture.

According to tradition, diplomats and members of the Cabinet are invited to join the duck hunt every year but Japanese politicians have declined the invitation in greater numbers in recent years because they are worried they will provoke an outcry from the growing number of conservationists.

The imperial duck hunt, an annual event until it was suspended in 1972 in the face of criticism, was resumed in 1977. Only two members of the Cabinet accepted the invitation. The reluctance of politicians to participate serves as an apt example of how conservation has become increasingly important in Japan.

The subject became internationally controversial two years ago after Japanese fish-

men were criticized for rounding up and slaughtering thousands of dolphins with clubs in a bay off the southern island of Iki.

Confronted with an international outcry the Government subsequently began to develop mechanical killer whales and other electronic devices which officials hope will discourage the dolphins from following fishing boats.

The growing concern over wild life was also illustrated last year when the Government attempted to organize a hunt to deplete the number of protected pigeons, which have settled in the eaves and rafters of the famous Buddhist, Seioji Temple at Asakusa in Tokyo.

The proposed hunt was organized after the droppings of about 5,000 pigeons, a protected species, began to cover the ornate building. It was hastily called off after a public outcry.

Taking another step to protect threatened species, the Government ratified the convention on international trade in endangered species last November. The latest ordinance will prohibit the importation of 420 endangered species of plants, animals and their parts. The ban includes imports of rhinoceros horn, ivory, albino crocodiles, sea turtles, tiger skins. Japan signed the convention in 1973 but failed to ratify it for seven years.

## UN ready for deal on Namibia at Geneva

From Nicholas Ashford  
Geneva, Jan 11

The United Nations is prepared to do a deal with the South African-led group attending the conference on Namibia (South-West Africa) in an attempt to overcome what is hoped to be the final obstacle blocking agreement on the implementation of a settlement plan for the territory.

The United Nations team, led by Mr Brian Urquhart, who is chairing the present conference, is understood to be prepared to give a clear undertaking that the world body will meet the reservations voiced by the South Africans and the internal political parties of the United Nations impartiality.

But in exchange, the United Nations team wants a firm commitment from the South African-led delegation that it will agree to a date for starting to implement the United Nations plan. The United Nations has suggested March 30 as a starting date, when a ceasefire would come into effect, with independence for the territory being achieved by the end of this year.

A suggestion of the proposed deal was made by Mr Urquhart during a working session of the conference yesterday. He said that when the deal is agreed, a number of things will have to change, because we shall then be in a completely different situation.

The internal parties have laid down a number of pre-conditions which they want met as a demonstration that the United Nations, which at present gives diplomatic and financial backing to the South-West Africa Peoples' Organization (SWAPO), will act impartially during the run-up to elections for a constituent assembly.

These include the rescinding of a General Assembly resolution recognizing SWAPO as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people and the ending of United Nations financial assistance to SWAPO. A request has also been made by the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA) that it should be allowed to address the next meeting of the General Assembly to discuss Namibia.

Although the United Nations did not comply with all these demands it could not, for example, rescind a General Assembly resolution—it believes it should be able to satisfy the disquiet of the South African and the internal parties on the impartiality issue.

The conference is due to resume tomorrow after a day of informal contacts on board a Swiss train which took delegates from Geneva to Montreux and back.

## Grenade attack on family in Gaza Strip

From Moshe Brillant  
Tel Aviv, Jan 11

An Israeli taxi driver was shot dead and a family of three injured in a grenade attack during a weekend of anti-Israeli terror in the Gaza Strip. Visiting Israel had not previously been harassed but yesterday a couple and their three-year-old daughter had a grenade thrown at their car as they drove along the Gaza highway.

The taxi driver was shot this morning in a garage near the Jabalia refugee camp while the oil in his car was being changed. A man entered the garage, shot him at close range and fled.

## Montego Bay oil tanks blaze

Montego Bay, Jamaica, Jan 11.—Four oil storage tanks caught fire last night at the Esso oil terminal here, causing millions of pounds worth of fuel to be lost.

A police spokesman said a man was seen running from the terminal shortly after the fire broke out.—Reuter.

## Turkish editor held

Istanbul, Jan 11.—Marital law authorities today detained Mr Salim Bayar, managing editor of *Yurtici*, Turkey's largest-selling newspaper, on charges of publishing "fabricated" news, the newspaper reported.

**ALL THIS WEEK BOAT SHOW 1981**

There's a tropical island centrepiece...a touch of Caribbean sunshine and holiday magic...a dazzling display of boats, engines, equipment and a host of accessories.

There's *Disneyland* and *Sailboard World*, the *Cone Fishing Fair*, *Boating Adventure* with sailing, water-skiing and windsurfing lessons, model boats, a Daily Express contest plus many interesting features.

And on the colourful waterfront, a musical *Fashion Show* by *Alders*, a thrilling display by water-skiing specialists and a comedy diving act with a breathtaking finale, provides a spectacular interlude.

It's all there waiting for you...a veritable nautical paradise and a Show for all the family.

Open Every Day! Weekdays 10.00 am to 8.30 pm. Saturday and Sunday 10.00 am to 6.00 pm.

Admission: Including Saturday and Sunday £2.20. Children under 14 £1.10. All prices include VAT.

Cheap evening admission: The admission charge after 6.30 pm until 10.15 pm is only £1.00. Children under 14 50p.

It is regretted that for safety reasons no drinks or pushchairs can be admitted. However, limited car parking space available and baby buggies supplied on request. Invalid chairs admitted only by prior arrangement with the Organisers. Regret no dogs.

**EARLS COURT Until January 18th**

Presented by the SEBENT & DAILY EXPRESS

## 11 children left alone in house perish in blaze

East St. Louis, Illinois, Jan 11.—Eleven children left at home alone died in a raging fire early today as flames and smoke died rescue efforts by neighbours and firemen.

Police said that their 28-year-old mother had left the children, aged 10 months to 11 years, unattended. She returned home about 2 am as the fire raged.

Firemen tried three times to enter the house, but were driven back by the heat and flames. Mr Raymond Wilson, the assistant fire chief, said the blaze apparently began near a space heater. The children were sleeping on foam rubber because there was no bed.—AP.

## Fire kills 14 mares

Lexington, Kentucky, Jan 11.—Fourteen broodmares in foal, valued at more than \$875,000, were killed when a barn loaded with 10 tons of hay exploded in flames at a horse farm here.

## Agriculture: Advent of electronic sheep

By the Staff of Nature  
For several years scientists of Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) have been developing an electronic sheep. It has already helped to show why lambs in New South Wales were not growing as well as desired, and to predict how winter shearing in Tasmania should affect feeding.

The electronic sheep is a computer programmed to use the results of a great deal of research carried out in the past in Australia and elsewhere. Given certain local information, it should be able to calculate the probable response of a sheep to diet and environment in any of the situations to be found in Australia. One of the difficulties for agricultural advisers in such a country is that properties, stocks and seasonal activities can be so varied that general recommendations may be of little value to farmers.

To achieve the electronic sheep, Dr J. Black, Dr G. Felchney and Dr M. Graham of CSIRO's division of animal production at Prospect, New South Wales, first reviewed what was known about sheep, their diets and nutritional needs. They then organized the information into their computer program so that it could answer such questions as, why do lambs grazing lush, irrigated summer pastures grow more slowly than those grazing annual pastures in spring?

Such a difficulty occurred in Leeton, New South Wales, and the electronic sheep was applied to it. Information about the poorly growing lambs and the climatic conditions was fed into the computer. The answer it gave was that although the pastures had a high content of protein, it was of a sort readily broken down by the microbes in the rumen and therefore lost from the lambs in their urine. As a consequence only a proportion of the protein the smaller lambs were eating was being absorbed into their intestines.

## Science report

nutritious diet. The deficiency was therefore linked up with a foot supplement of vitamins which boosted growth, as the computer predicted.

When Tasmanian farmers wanted to know whether winter shearing would affect the size of the stock, woolly sheep, the electronic sheep was consulted. To maintain its body temperature, a cold, short sheep must eat more than a warm, woolly sheep, and the computer showed that the timing of shearing was indeed important. Ten sheep shorn in October could be maintained on the same feed during winter as six shorn in June.

The computer's next task is to provide useful advice on the winter feed requirements associated with various times of shearing and lambing. The timing of lambing is significant because a pregnant ewe, which has already increased her food consumption for the benefit of the foetus, will not need to boost it much further if she is shorn.

Source: *Rural Research*, September 1980, p 181 1980. © Nature-Times News Service 1981.



## OVERSEAS

## Warsaw appears ready to negotiate five-day week with Solidarity

From Dossa Trevisan  
Warsaw, Jan 11

Poland's independent trade union movement Solidarity and the Government seem ready to begin negotiations over a five-day, 40-hour week.

Yesterday at least three million Poles, according to official estimates, took the day off in defiance of a government instruction to work. The union had told them they were free to take it off if they wanted and that they would be fully supported in the event of government sanctions such as loss of pay. All big industries were idle.

Managements in some industries reached an agreement whereby the workers undertook to work on Saturday, January 31 which the Government has already declared a free day.

This showed that both sides did not wish to make an issue of free Saturdays beyond that of each demonstrating its position.

The union wished to prove that no decision could be taken without consultation and Mr Lech Walesa, the union leader, said in reply to an official argument that the country could not afford a 40-hour week. "If the Government can prove this to us with figures in hand we are ready to negotiate."

As tension receded with both sides in conciliatory mood a fresh threat of confrontation emerged over the proposal to set up a Rural Solidarity union.

Mr Stanislaw Kania, Poland's Communist Party leader, said yesterday that the authorities were opposed to the setting up of a Rural Solidarity union whose registration is pending.

He accused some people in Rural Solidarity of attempting to incite the countryside, and he spoke of "political gamblers" playing up to farmers' justified discontent in order to set up a political opposition.

There were, he said, some people who were by and large outsiders and who made no secret of their "antisocialist" or to put it more bluntly—counter-revolutionary designs.

The reformers account for three quarters of Poland's



Shoppers hit: The sign says this store section is closed.

agriculture production. Rural Solidarity's application for registration has been deferred by the Supreme Court.

The objection until now has been that the farmers cannot be regarded as employees subject to collective bargaining but the Supreme Court left the decision open on the ground that further study was necessary.

Mr Kania went out of his way to assure the farmers that private farming would enjoy high priority in government investment policy. Investment is to be increased by 20 per cent. Nevertheless he made it clear that the authorities were still opposed to an independent farmers' union—presumably preferring the "agricultural circles" organization backed by the Government.

The organization has been discredited. In Ustrzyki Dolne several hundred farmers are still occupying government buildings and demanding recognition of their "federation of workers and farmers" as a sister branch to Rural Solidarity.

## Malaysian urges camps for job-seeking Indonesians

From M. G. C. Pillai  
Kuala Lumpur, Jan 11

The presence of more than 200,000 illegal immigrants from Indonesia is posing a political and security threat to Malaysia, according to political leaders.

In southern Johore state, a politician from the ruling National Front coalition called for the placing of the immigrants in camps like the Vietnamese refugees.

Police officials say these Indonesians are being smuggled into Malaysia from Sumatra and the neighbouring Indonesian islands to work in the rubber estates and oil palm plantations.

But their presence is illegal and few actually work in the plantations. Many drift to the towns and into burglary and petty theft.

The Government says its hands are tied. A senior police

official in Johore conceded they have no place to put the detained Indonesian illegal immigrants.

Political leaders, particularly from the coalition partner, Malaysian Chinese Association, and the opposition Democratic Action Party, have been critical of the continued presence of the Indonesians.

Malaysia suffers from a shortage of workers for the rubber and construction industries, as many of them leave for higher wages in Singapore.

In the east Malaysian state of Sabah, the presence of illegal immigrants and refugees from the Philippines and Indonesia is a way of life.

There are at least 90,000 refugees from the fighting in southern Philippines, and another 50,000 illegal immigrants from Indonesia.

## Prisoners of conscience



## Argentina: Hector Raul Marteau

By Caroline Moorehead

Nine hundred political prisoners remain in Argentine jails, out of more than 5,000 originally detained, according to a recent statement by a spokesman from the Interior Ministry in Buenos Aires.

One of these is Hector Raul Marteau, a philosophy student at Cordoba University before his arrest on April 1, 1975. Now aged 36 and the father of two children, he has been held for five years without charge or trial.

During the 1970s, Hector Marteau was a leader of the National Union of Students in Tucuman. At his arrest, the authorities explained that he was being detained in connection with his student activities.

Hector Marteau was held for a month under state of siege provisions—without trial or charge. After that he was placed at the disposal of the National Executive Power (PEN), under which, in theory, prisoners can opt for exile rather than face indefinite terms of imprisonment.

Marteau, who already has a visa for France has applied three times to leave the country; on each occasion he has been refused permission on the ground that he represents a "threat to the security of the nation".

Argentine lawyers have challenged the right of the executive to keep prisoners in preventive detention, arguing that it is unconstitutional, yet many PEN prisoners, like Marteau, have already been held for more than five years.

## Drugs run ends with nine dead

From Neil Kelly

Heroin worth about £600,000 was found on a Thai fishing trawler whose captain was accused last week of drugging and throwing into the sea nine of his crew off the southern coast of Thailand.

Drugs squad officers said they had evidence that the heroin was being carried to a rendezvous at sea with an ocean-going vessel.

A dispute over the drug-trafficking mission was believed to have been the cause of the murders, a local police officer in Chumphon province said today. The killings came to light when one of the three survivors, Mr Somnuek Saengkam, made accusations against the captain, Vichai Wannarong, and his brother.

Mr Somnuek alleged that he and two other men had refused to take heroin medicine the captain offered them as laxatives. Nine other crew members quickly became unconscious.

When they saw the captain and his brother tying up the unconscious men and dumping them into the sea, they jumped overboard.

The captain and his brother fired on them with rifles but missed they said. They were picked up later by another fishing boat.

## Emergency law powers kept in Philippines

Manila, Jan 11.—President

Marcos of the Philippines will have emergency powers to close down the media, ban shows and exhibitions and control admission to schools after martial law is lifted, possibly next week.

Malacanang Palace today released key provisions of the National Security Code and the Public Order Act which define President Marcos's powers "whenever in his judgment there exists a grave emergency."

## THE ARTS

## Dexter reveals the power of Berg's vision

Lulu  
Metropolitan Opera,  
New York

Patrick J. Smith

The strongest aspect of the Metropolitan Opera's revival of its 1977 production of Alban Berg's *Lulu*, now with its third act completed, was the ensemble purpose of its participants. Cameras were ubiquitous, because of a forthcoming television relay, and light levels were adjusted, as the programme put it, but the performance overcame the distractions and emerged as a cohesive and finally moving evening of opera. I would, however, strongly quarrel with the decision to perform *Lulu* in the original, for unlike *Wozzeck*, it is a complex, discursive and talky story, with a host of well-delineated characters and a goodly amount of spoken dialogue—lost on a non-German speaking audience.

It is John Dexter's finest Met production. Aided by the evocative settings of Jocelyn Herbert, he sticks quite closely to the composer's wishes, yet with a flexibility as to character individuality which is highly welcome. For instance, the Geschwitz family is presented from the 1977 portrayal of Tatjana Troyanos. Lulu is the most ultimately fragile and vulnerable rather than forceful, in keeping with her reduced vocal abilities, and this conception has the advantage of making the final scene extremely poignant. Indeed, Dexter's handling of that scene is near-flawless in its cumulative

power—but then, it now stands revealed as one of the masterpieces of all opera.

Of the singers, Franz Mazura's Dr Schön/Jack the Ripper dominated. This must be a close to ideal portrayal, in its iron Prussian exterior sapped and crumbled from within, presented with extraordinary emotional control. Its only defect was a rather staggardly overdone death scene, but this was redeemed by his glacial portrait of Jack.

The Lulu did not assume her rightful centrality because on the night I attended Teresa Stratas cancelled and was replaced by Julia Migenes-Johnson. Migenes-Johnson was thoroughly familiar with the appalling role, and projected that innocence and wonder in Lulu, but, though she handled the vocal problems well, the voice itself is not of sufficient size or colour variety to be able to control the stage, particularly for the just-dificult aria just before she shoots Schön.

The supporting cast was strong, led by Andrew Foldi's steadily repellent Schigolch. One wanted a bit more ease of lyricism from Kenneth Riegel's Alwa, and more presence from Lenus Carlson's acrobat.

James Levine sees *Lulu* in its late romantic robes, and his sweeping reading served to humanize the largely odious tribe that infest the opera, taking maximum advantage of the warmth that suffuses Berg's writing. I am convinced that *Lulu* does not need to wallow in decadence to succeed, and that the understated but pointed approach of Dexter serves equally well to convey what is a major evening of operatic theatre.



Julia Migenes-Johnson as Lulu

London Baroque  
Wigmore Hall

Stanley Sadie

Today is the fifth anniversary of the founding of the Early Music Centre, which has done so much to promote the cause and to provide tuition of a kind available nowhere else in Britain. All the early musicians singing on Brahms as soloists were cheerful and, And she sang, if perhaps a little passionately, a curious Henry Lawes group, with a couple of thoughtful, challenging songs in an English compromise version of the final scene. For two Italian dialogues she joined with Nigel Rogers, a model as always of early baroque style; in a Montéclair cantata he seemed less at home, not fully on terms with the rhetoric or the French manner

of line and ornamentation. A Bach violin sonata was fascinatingly done by Ingrid Seifert and John Toll, phrased with a sensitive feeling for detail and yet also suggesting real interpretative breadth; there was a rare sense of freedom about it, yet ensemble always remained precise. Possibly treatment of tempo in the first Allegro was excessively free, the music over-articulated, the points over-made. With Charles Medias as the flute, the solo violinist played to a Leclair trio sonata, and again the French style proved a shade elusive—the slow movements too sticky, the quick one too energetic, so that the delicately Gallic, rococo flavour went slightly awry.

## Wallfisch/Weinberg

Trio

Purcell Room

Joan Chissell

In their three recitals the Wallfisch/Weinberg Trio are singing out Brahms as post-humans, ingeniously offsetting his Trio for clarinet, cello and piano (their own instrumental format), his cello and clarinet sonatas, and some keyboard work on each occasion—and even Beethoven, too, as in Saturday's opening programme.

It was this composer's early B flat Trio that immediately won me over. Every bar, while

obviously painstakingly considered, came across with the immediacy of a new discovery, each Beethoven in intensity and drive. Reaction to surprise, whether of dynamics or key, was particularly keen, not least from Peter Wallfisch at the piano. In the Adagio the clarinet's finely tapered phrasing was scarcely less impressive than the cello's plangent cantabile. Even if the variations of the finale still seemed to need tauter cohesion, there was much piquant characterization en route.

Potency of characterization again won the day in Kenneth Leighton's Fantasy on an American Hymn Tune, one of those works uncommonly dependent on performance to make it seem too long or too short, episodic or inevitable.

This group's timing (knowing exactly how to kindle excitement by expectancy), their rhythmic virility and range of dynamics, and their grasp of all possible charges of excessive Cheltenham (where it was premiered in 1975) gently.

And so to Brahms, his late Trio in A minor, so much more elusive, so much harder to bring off, than the Clarinet Quintet. Here, finesse in phrasing sometimes militated against the music's broader flow (but not in the lovely Adagio). I was more worried by a certain lack of mellowness in the clarinetist's tone. For all Anron Weinberg's dynamic control, it was still the glorious singing quality of Raphael Wallfisch's cello that so often stole the ear— which was not quite what the composer intended here.

## Breaking new and vital ground

Park Lane Group

Purcell Room

William Mann

After some initial ups and downs, recounted earlier on this page, Park Lane Group's week of recitals devoted to "young artists and twentieth century music" settled into a more usual pattern of new and hardly familiar music, plus a few modern favourites, in interpretations of high quality, such as regular patrons of the series expect.

Typical were the contributions of the mezzo-soprano Marilyn de Blicke. Her voice is strong, well supported to embrace a useful upper extension of radiant quality (only occasionally with a hint of shrillness), and a warm, lucid middle register; she used words with intelligence, to colour vocal line and point character. Early Schoenberg found an apt exponent in her, ready to open her throat handsomely to an emotional climax.

A canasta, *One Foot in Eden*, by Thomas Wilson, to nobly remorseful poems by Edwin Muir, showed impressive declamatory powers. Her wedding of words and music lifted both from chill pessimism to an atmosphere of cogent tragedy. Here, as elsewhere, she and the music were powerfully supported by the pianism of Roger Vignoles.

Harle claimed first performance of Berio's *Sequenza IXB* harder to grasp than *Canzone di Lullu*, partly because of its relative brevity, yet more particularly because of its non-stop transformations of small notations.

The other solo piece was *Flight* by George Benjamin for flute alone, which had first British hearing, and conveyed a not unconvincing impression of flight (not that I can speak with authority) and, though in places difficult to play, is a useful addition to the repertoire for unaccompanied flute. It was performed by Kathryn Lukas.

The remainder of the programme was taken up with concerted works, starting with Mr Sherlaw Johnson's *Green Whispers of Gold*. This is a setting of poems by e. e. Cummings and the composer for

—which dwells on extremes of register and dynamic, and a chameleon-like colouring of single notes, a likable and convincing series of works—and of John's *Journal*, written for him by Jonathan Lloyd in a cool jazz idiom, and delivered with nicely relaxed expertise.

The other pianist in this programme, Susan Tompkins, played Janacek thoughtfully, revealed power and sense of drama in Nigel Osborne's *Poems*, an agreeably Lisztian bravura study, and entertained her audience greatly with an inventive jazz improvisation, fruit of her study with Jaki Byard.

The final concert of the series was beset by illness and lost two recent British works. In their stead came the *Locrian Quartet*, who proved remarkably at ease with the textual and tactical subtleties of Webern's 10 pieces, musically alert in Penderick's first quartet, and quite masterly in their execution and interpretation of the glorious string quartet by Lutoslawski.

With them on the programme was the pianist Renate Turini, who brought nothing new—not even from her native Australia, a pity—but deployed a strong technique and lively musical commitment to composers as diverse as Bartok (the piano sonata), Szymanowski (the op 33 studies), and Falla. His splendid *Fantasia Baetica* ended a greatly enjoyable concert and this series.

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Nicholas Dixon's *Citified* had

## Books

## The tastes of humour

To have a reputation as the funniest man writing in England can be as unsettling as being called the fastest gun in the West. If you were the latter, ambitious young gun-slingers were always shouldering through and elevating the saloon to take a bang at you before you were ready in order to prove their virility. Critics and reviewers can seldom resist the temptation to write plonking pieces about the funnies. Humour is a subjective business, and we all think we are funny.

Alan Coren has learned to live with it since he became editor of *Punch* three years ago, but he still gets a bit paranoid when people say that they see his magazine only in their dentist's waiting-room. Dentist's waiting-rooms are lucky if they have *Motoring* and *Woman's Own* these days. The image of *Punch* as a quaintly old-fashioned with an elderly readership is invented by those who never see it, but I firmly remember it from childhood visits to the dentist when the drill was manual. Its circulation is 92,500 a week rising to 150,000 for special numbers; and its readership profile suggests that they are people who went to university and are in their middle thirties. The *Times* too knows what it is to have a ludicrously erroneous image among some who never read it.

From the walls of the editor's large room on Tudor Street portraits of "Ponny" Mayhew, William Makepeace Thackeray, and other Victorian founding fathers stare sombrely down on the serious business of being funny. A statue of Mr Punch, about life-sized I guess, with ruff and quill beak. Bound volumes of back numbers, stretching back to 1841 when *Punch* was a ferociously Radical rag, cover part of the walls. And the editor's writing-table has on it the Bible, *Pilgrim's Progress*, the *Oxford Companion to English Literature*, and the *Volvo Maintenance Manual*. The Pope has been sitting there for years, looking after our cars as we look after our bodies.

Coren is a sharp, intellectual, likable, balding man of just over 40; oh yes, and very funny too. He has just published a book of essays, *How to Write a Book*, and is looking at the Bible, *Pilgrim's Progress*, the *Oxford Companion to English Literature*, and the *Volvo Maintenance Manual*. The Pope has been sitting there for years, looking after our cars as we look after our bodies.

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## Choreography

GSMD

You can seldom see dancers from four leading dance companies on stage in one evening, so the programme at Guildhall School of Music and Drama on Friday was sure to have interest for its dancing at least, with participants from Rambert, London Contemporary and both Royal Ballets. The show, with new works by seven choreographers, is to have a public performance at Sadler's Wells on January 25 in aid of their improvements fund.

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Playing for Time  
ITV

Michael Ratcliffe

Not the least remarkable feature of Daniel Mann's film of *Fania Fenelon's* book was the sound track, the music of Auschwitz itself. Scissors hacked off hair like vicious birds; sirens and sleepers moaned, women and trunks screamed, in distant and barely distinguishable harmony and dissonance; the wind in the power cables and the dogs along the wire jangled the ear almost as much as the mandolin and accordion for which Fania was compelled, by the resources available in the camp, to re-score sections of Beethoven's Fifth. This terrifying sound-world was never intrusive, but provided the vice inside which the prisoners' lives and the play itself were held. *Playing for Time* is the only dramatic reconstruction I have seen whose authenticity was tested by the supplementary use of historic newsreel and not shamed by it.

Arthur Miller's script, like much of his work, explored the relative and absolute moralities challenged by an unprecedented occasion, and ruefully concluded that no orthodoxies were exempt from contamination. Fania, the French Jewish nightclub singer and pianist (Vanessa Redgrave) was isolated in turn from four fellow prisoners—a Zionist, a Communist, an artist and a whore, each of whom believed her talent or faith made her free—because she alone saw that the lesson of Auschwitz was the lesson of *Macbeth*. Monsters are always human monsters, which should not make one more sorry for them but more fearful for one's self. It was this terrible understanding that sustained both Fania's survival and her grief.

That this is still an unpopular view of the Third Reich in continents outside Europe was evident in the reception of this very play. It seems to me well worth insisting upon, but whether it should have taken Miller and Mann 21 hours to do the job or even to tell the story of the Auschwitz women's orchestra I doubt very much: it was not free from repetitiveness and not always clear in plot. Nevertheless *Playing for Time* was a sobering piece of work and contained one of the best performances of the year. Shirley Knight as Lagerführerin Mandel—which reminded us what Hollywood's kitsch of death might once have made of it.

Miss Redgrave taps a well of grief on the screen, more gratingly than any performance of Gertie, and also projects, seemingly without effort, the exhaustion of intellectual doubt. Her support was worthy of her. In a hurl of Jewesses there had to be at least one of irrepressible wit, and in Auschwitz, and Robin Bartlett's witty Etalina provided a just measure of relief. Most important of all, Redgrave's performance was balanced by one of comparable authority from James Fox as a camp guard, and also projects, gratingly without effort, the exhaustion of intellectual doubt. Her support















## The Times Profile of Opus Dei

## New mood in Rome encourages 'church within a church'

The secretive and controversial Roman Catholic organization Opus Dei is seeking to increase its power and prestige in the Church by profiting from the new mood since the election of Pope John Paul II.

Opus Dei is now pressing two claims, either of which would substantially advance its ambitions for the future. It is campaigning for the canonization of its founder who always claimed direct inspiration from God. It is also striving for a unique status in the Church as a largely lay organization which would be independent of local bishops and national hierarchies.

Serious questions about Opus Dei's fitness for the role it desires are raised by the disclosures of a former senior member who has shown *The Times* his private collection of secret official documents describing its hidden internal life and ultimate aims. His evidence has been supported by many other sources and papers seen during a detailed investigation by *The Times*.

On the basis of these documents and his own experiences as a member, Dr John Roche, of Lincath College, Oxford, who remains a practising Catholic, alleges that Opus Dei is a church within a church ultimately loyal only to itself, and psychologically dangerous to its own members. "Personal identity suffers a severe battering; some are reduced to shadows of their former selves, others become severely disturbed," Opus Dei must be thought of as an exclusively invisible church," he said. He has offered his evidence to Cardinal Basil Hume, President of the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

He also produced instruments of mortification, a small whip and a soaked chain—which are a normal part of the rigid spiritual discipline which Opus Dei imposes on its members, including adolescents of both sexes.

There is an extraordinary history of antagonism between Opus Dei and the Roman Catholic hierarchy at Oxford University. The present chaplain, a former Opus Dei member, and several previous chaplains, have spoken of the harmful influence which they believe Opus Dei has over its members, and students are now warned against it as a matter of policy.

Opus Dei was founded in Spain as a new way of religion, through the carrying out of their ordinary work and the fulfilment of their personal, family and social duties, thus becoming a leaven of fervent Christian life in all environments," to quote an official tract.

There has often been tension between Opus Dei and other parts of the Church in Spain, involving members of the hierarchy and some of the major religious orders such as the Jesuits. The latest important incident concerned the suppression of a report based on confidential documents which were about to be published in the Spanish Catholic weekly. The papers included a long formal statement of Opus Dei's claim to be elevated to the status of a personal prelature, an international diocese under its own bishop outside the jurisdiction of local ecclesiastical authorities. The head of the organization would be promoted bishop.

The claim was addressed to Cardinal Baggio, head of the Congregation for Bishops and reputed in Rome to be sympathetic to Opus Dei. No official announcement has been made, though the authenticity of the document is not in doubt. It is said unofficially that the Pope referred the request for a personal prelature to Cardinal Baggio's department, and at one point the request was turned down by only one vote. As membership of the Congregation changes from time to time, such a refusal would not be final. If a prelature was eventually granted, this would be in spite of the known opposition of several national episcopal conferences.

As well as Cardinal Baggio, Opus Dei is believed to have the support of Cardinal Oddi, a key position as head of the Congregation of Priests, to which he was appointed by the present Pope. He was less in favour under Pope Paul VI, which also applies to Cardinal Palazzini, head of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Cardinal Palazzini, now directly responsible for the canonization process of Mgr Escrivá, the founder of Opus Dei, makes no secret of his support for it. In 1972 he was secretary of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, and signed a controversial document which attacked the policy of the Spanish bishops of distancing themselves from General Franco's fascist regime.

Cardinal Tarazona, Archbishop of Madrid, has been seen to make a serious personal protest to Paul VI, and the offending paper was subsequently downgraded to the status of a "study document". The Church's attitude to General Franco had at the time a crucial bearing on the liberation of Spanish society and the possible introduction of parliamentary democracy. Opus Dei had been identified with the Franco regime and had members in his government. An attempt by Rome to silence the Spanish Catholic hierarchy had obvious implications.

Observers in Rome have concluded that while Paul VI tended to side with the Church, John Paul II now lends his weight to Opus Dei. Relations between Cardinal Tarazona and the present Pope are not thought to be very good. One source stated that the Pope had threatened to dismiss the cardinal if he did not relax his opposition to Opus Dei. Recently the cardinal called a press conference to answer rumours that the newuncio to Madrid was associated with Opus Dei, saying he did not believe it was true.

The Pope is said to favour the canonization of Mgr Escrivá, an act which would give the highest approval to its image of itself as an instrument specially fashioned by God. One of the then was seen praying at the tomb of Mgr Escrivá in Rome before the conclave which elected Pope Paul VI's successor.

Opus Dei was paid the compliment last spring of being asked to host an official preliminary conference held prior to the Synod of Bishops in the autumn at its own University of Navarre. Opus Dei has also been reported as wanting to take over the running of Vatican Radio

from the Jesuits, a rumour which can neither be confirmed nor denied in Rome. Another indication of Opus Dei's increasing influence is its close relationship with Archbishop Lopez Trujillo, former secretary and now president of the Latin American Conference of Bishops in those countries where Opus Dei appears to have significant political or ecclesiastical influence. It is in Spain, generally felt on the side of conservative or right-wing tendencies.

Opus Dei established itself in Britain in the early 1950s and organized itself on the basis of a trust deed dated April 2, 1954. Ten years later it was registered as a charity with the stated object of advancing Roman Catholicism and of charitable works.

The principal repository of OD funds in Britain is the Netherhall Educational Association, a registered charity (1955), which in 1978 had fixed assets of £1.85m, mostly property. The Association takes its name from Netherhall Gardens in Hampstead, London, where Opus Dei acquired two adjoining houses in 1952. The site now accommodates Netherhall House, an impressive purpose-built hostel for 200 students (who do not have to be OD members or even Catholic). The first stage of this was opened by the Queen Mother in 1966, and it is now run by a third OD charity, the Netherhall House Trust, registered in 1970. OD in Britain can be said to have begun in Netherhall Gardens but its headquarters have long since been in Ormeau Court, Paddington, London.

It is OD's policy to recruit people of high intellectual capacity as "numeraries", the key grade, and it set its sights on gaining a foothold in Oxford soon after securing its London base. But the Roman Catholic claspings to the university has consistently and effectively opposed OD influence in Oxford despite considerable pressure.

Father Michael Hollings was chaplain in the late 1950s and early 1960s and was prominent in an ultimately successful campaign to prevent OD setting up a Netherhall House-style hostel for students, although they did take over Grandpoint House in Abingdon Road, this is a much smaller affair than they had in mind. OD has since also acquired a hostel for women students in north Oxford, also quite modest in size.

The late Cardinal Godfrey, then Archbishop of Westminster, visited Father Hollings to tell him to cease his opposition, saying that he had heard the will of the Pope. Pius XII, if he kept up his opposition, the Cardinal told the chaplain, "it would not be forgotten". Father Hollings persisted.

A subsequent chaplain, Father Crispian Hollis, now a well-known religious broadcaster, described the influence of OD as "pernicious". OD deliberately set itself apart from the rest of the RC community in Oxford, he said, and ran Grandpoint House "as if it was a different religion".

The present incumbent, Father Walter Drum, is no less suspicious. He told us that he had taken it upon himself to issue a discreet warning to new students to be on their guard against OD recruiting drives and to have a quiet word with any student he thought was especially at risk.

According to its own tradition, Opus Dei was founded in Madrid on October 2, 1928, by Jose Maria Escrivá de Balaguer y Albas, a Spanish priest then of three-and-a-half years' standing, who founded a small self-sufficient community, which he called "the strictly separate women's section was set up on February 14, St. Valentine's Day, 1930, and the priests' section on the same day of 1943. From then on it was known as "the Sacred Society of the Holy Cross and Opus Dei".

Membership of Opus Dei is by invitation only and should not be disclosed even to closest relatives. One of its principal attractions is the carefully fostered feeling of belonging to a chosen elite, former members said. The very rigidity of its doctrine and the daily observances it imposed on its members, who were in doubt in an uncertain world for the lonely, the emotionally immature and those with an unfulfilled sense of mission. Its residences spare no expense on material comfort and strive to create an atmosphere of cheerful companionship for those prepared to conform.

The Oxford chaplains said they soon learned to recognize students likely to be susceptible to an approach from Opus Dei; a senior Spanish defector said: "If you need a leader, you are in danger." It was only after the Second World War that Opus Dei began to spread round the world. On June 16, 1950 it finally received the "definitive approval" of the Vatican as a secular institute. At about the same time, as informed sources in Spain told *The Times*, Opus Dei was active in the search for funds. Nor had it made much headway in Rome.

It therefore set out to acquire economic and political influence in Spain, a country with a special place in the Church. Direct influence in Madrid grew into indirect but powerful influence in Rome, now bolstered by a considerable physical and organizational presence there. They adopted the same strategy in other parts of the world, notably in Latin America but also in the 80 or more countries in which they reported 75,000 members live.

The late 1950s in Spain were "the age of the three Lopez's"—Sr Lopez Rodó, Minister of Economic Planning, Sr Lopez Bravo, Minister of Industry and later Foreign Minister, and Sr Lopez Letona, Minister of Commerce and later of Finance. They were all OD members and together they formed a team to revive and expand the Spanish economy at a speed which won the amazement and applause of much of the rest of the world. It was not done by Opus Dei as such but by three of its members whose presence in the government nonetheless brought OD influence in Spanish politics to its peak in the period 1960-73. An elitist body with a strong sense of discipline can reasonably be said to have a lot of political influence when three of its members sit in the same Cabinet at the same time, jointly running a booming economy.

If the fresh air of post-Franco democracy in Spain has blown away OD's influence at the political summit, though not at still significant lower levels of the state apparatus, its connections with big business are very large and continue to grow.

The largest conglomerate in Spain's private sector is RUMASA (Ruiz-Mateos Sociedad Anónima), a holding company with more than 300 subsidiaries including 21 banks and 13 firms, which appear in the list of the top 1,500 Spanish enterprises. With about 37,000 in its combined payrolls, RUMASA is the largest employer of labour in Spain's private sector. Its resources amount to about £300m, its annual sales to about £800m. Its shares are its banks to about £1,800m. Its shares are not quoted and its profits are not disclosed. In Spain it is often called "Octopus Dei".



Monsignor Escrivá, Opus Dei's founder.

Sr Jose Maria Ruiz-Mateos Jimenez de Tejada owns half the shares in RUMASA and made it what it is. He is a devoted superannuated member of Opus Dei and one of its main benefactors who also pays more personal income tax than any other Spaniard. The firm's origins lie in the wine trade and it owns the world's largest bodega, a single structure of 60,000 square metres at Jerez, as well as at least 17 subsidiaries in the British wine trade.

The purchase of a bottle of Dry Sack sherry at an Augustus Barnett off-licence represents a potential double contribution, however infinitesimal, to the coffers of Opus Dei: RUMASA owns both.

OD members are also prominent in journalism in Spain, with strong connections with publishing firms. There is a school of journalism at the University of Navarre at Pamplona, which is an OD institution. There is far more to OD's role in its country of origin than space permits us to describe; collectively the influence of its tightly organized membership in the country is both widespread and profound.

The newly liberated Spanish press has produced a wealth of material about OD in recent years, some very detailed and probing. Long lists of names of members in sensitive places including the court of King Juan Carlos have been published and not untruthfully. Although OD is highly secretive and rarely makes statements, it is extremely sensitive to what is written about it as the following unusual incident illustrates.

Father Bernardino Hernandez, a secular priest of 47 who has made his career in journalism, letters and poetry, edits *Vida Nueva*, a most influential Roman Catholic weekly, and has been watching Opus Dei for 20 years. In October, 1979, he received anonymously through the post documents he could identify as genuine relating to OD's campaign to enhance its standing in the Church. They set out the case for a "personal prelature" for the President-General of OD, who would then become a bishop while Opus Dei became an international diocese.

Father Hernandez set about writing a very long article on "the transformation of Opus Dei" which was to form an eight-page pullout. The issue dated November 3, 1979, had already gone to press when Father Hernandez had unexpected visitors. "Two characters came into my office, a priest and a layman... They said they were from the secretariat of Opus Dei in Spain," Father Hernandez told us.

They tried to persuade him to withdraw the already printed article, saying it would be bad for the Church, unethical and obscene. "A priest and a layman... They said they were from the secretariat of Opus Dei in Spain," Father Hernandez told us. He refused. Shortly afterwards his superiors in the publishing company which owns the paper ordered him to withdraw it. "Under heavy pressure," he agreed, provided he could explain what had happened in the next issue.

The November 3 edition duly appeared with the article signalled on the cover but with the eight pages on which it had been printed missing. A loose slip of paper in each copy said: "The section... has had to be torn out of the magazine when it was already printed and bound. The Director and editors of *Vida Nueva* express their sorrow at this higher decision which they saw themselves obliged to observe."

The incident backfired horribly by causing a scandal which led not to suppression of the document but to far wider publication. Other people had copies of them, and the widely read Madrid daily *El País* printed them. The story went round the world.

Structurally Opus Dei comes in threes. At the top are three priests, the President-General (known simply as el Padre, the Father), the Secretary-General and the Counsellor-General. Escrivá died in Rome on June 26, 1975, and was succeeded as President-General by Father Alvaro del Portillo.

The order as a whole is divided into three vertical sections. There are three entirely separate sections for priests, laymen and women, the vertical division. Horizontally, there are three levels of membership. The most important is the numerary, itself made up of three grades: the "pre-numerary" (not elected), the "elector" (elected by the numeraries), and the "inner circle" (elected by the numeraries). Inner electors have access to the inner circles, the regular general councils (one for each vertical division) and the very occasional congress (the last known met in 1975 to choose Escrivá's successor).

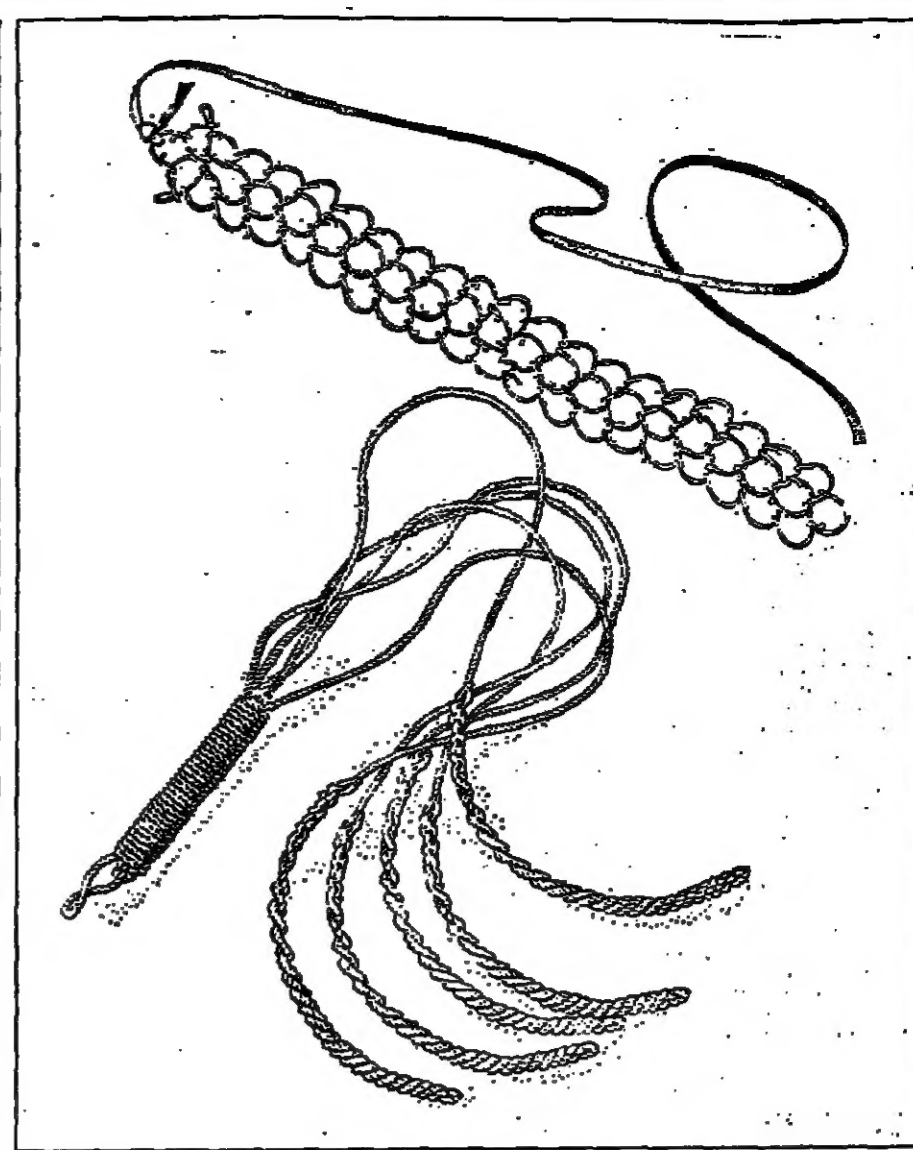
Numeraries must conform to three requirements: they must take the three monastic vows of poverty, chastity and obedience; they must be of high intellectual calibre and they must live in OD residences. They form the kernel in which primarily numeraries dominate: lay order or no, the clergy dominates OD.

Then comes a much larger number of superannuaries who lead ordinary lives and follow a much simpler set of rules without vows. They are important because they embody OD's temporal influence and raise its funds. The third category comprises the associates (formerly oblates) who are to be found living in OD residences and doing the manual work. OD's "membership" of 75,000 also includes a special category of "cooperators", people regarded as sympathetic to its aims who may not even know they are so regarded and play no active part at all.

OD's experience, especially since the internal tension arose between the spiritually minded and the materialist element who went for temporal influence in the 1950s and after, has been that the older the numeraries are when recruited, the more likely they are to defect (many of our sources bore this out).

In recent years therefore, the emphasis has shifted to recruiting numeraries not at undergraduate level but at the minimum age allowed by the rules, 14 years six months. With six months' probation and six years' training in an OD house, the recruit can become a fully-fledged numerary at 21.

What most disturbs observers, critics and lapsed members of OD is the effect



Opus Dei's 'instruments of mortification'

of the old-fashioned and strict quasi-monastic regime in an OD numerary residence on immature young people. Numeraries are expected to wear the cilice, a strip of metal rather like chain-mail with the points of the links bent inwards, for two hours a day, usually around the top of one thigh so it, and the resulting contusions) cannot be seen.

Once a week, numeraries are required to apply the Discipline, a whip with five or six thongs, to their own buttocks in private for the length of time it takes to say the prayer *Salve Regina*. With special permission, they may increase the frequency to a maximum of three times a week.

These practices were once commonplace in monastic communities but have virtually died out. Several sources told us that these implements of self-mortification are given to recruits within weeks of joining, whatever their age. A member is expected to discuss all aspects of his life with his lay director, a senior Opus Dei numerary, in an intimate session known as a "confidence" once a week. In addition to regular confession of sins to a priest, and confession to a priest outside Opus Dei is discouraged.

During his time as a member, Dr John Roche collected a number of Opus Dei documents, made detailed notes, and photocopied many pages of the internal confidential journal named *Cronica*. This is the basic spiritual reading of an Opus Dei member, was kept in a locked cupboard and released for study under the supervision of a director. Dr Roche had held the rank of director, the most senior position open to a lay Opus Dei member.

Several senior Roman Catholic clergy have seen some or all the material in *The Times* possession. One was a member of the English hierarchy: one an academic theologian and a member of the Theological Commission of the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference; and one holds a senior position in the Benedictine Order. Their views coincided, that it was "unhealthy" and psychologically and spiritually harmful. Doubts were raised about the orthodoxy of some of the doctrine. They were satisfied that it was in the best interests of the Roman Catholic Church that it should come to light.

From the pages of *Cronica* it is possible to deduce the internal philosophy and self-image of Opus Dei, and its relationship to the Church. The Church, *Cronica* makes plain, has fallen away from its true path, and the destiny of Opus Dei is to spread itself throughout the world by every means. The Church appears to have no other role than to be a vehicle for this process, the ultimate priority. No other means of salvation exists.

A characteristic teaching is "divine filiation", a doctrine repeatedly elaborated in *Cronica*. By God's direct appointment, Mgr Escrivá had become the true earthly father of all Opus Dei members, and this was not to be understood as a sentimental metaphor, applying to Escrivá from Ecclesiastical, applying to Escrivá the passage: "When sated he was found

with an orb that in his descendants the nations would be blessed..." It is a reference to Abraham.

*Cronica* is not ashamed to interpret Biblical passages as prophecies of Opus Dei's destiny, and uses for Mgr Escrivá such Biblical images as Father, Shepherd, and he who spends his life so that we, his children, may have it in greater abundance." Traditional spiritual ideas are frequently taken over and re-applied in this way, both to Mgr Escrivá and to Opus Dei itself. *Cronica* describes Opus Dei as sinless, perfect, "our Beautiful Body", and as Christ's "Mystical Body".

"On inspiring Opus Dei", *Cronica* states, "God our Lord wanted to base the spiritual physiognomy of the Work on divine filiation. Thus He invited us to imitate Him as His most beloved child, and brothers of His only begotten son. Furthermore He gave our Founder a spiritual fatherhood, which is a consequence and a channel of this divine filiation." This with fuses persons of every age and race into one great family, "a supernatural family through whose veins flows the same blood, that of Christ."

In a typical reinterpretation of the classical Christian metaphor, *Cronica* states: "At His Last Supper Our Lord prayed his priestly prayer for the unity of his Mystical Body: *ut omnes Unus sint*. And he wanted to seal this strong indestructible unity of Opus Dei with a spirit of filiation to the Father, which is our best defence." (Throughout references to the "Father" are to Mgr Escrivá though *Cronica* sometimes leaves unresolved the ambiguity that Father may also refer to God.)

Filiation to the Father is not "an occasional overflow of affection" but belongs to "the most profound depths of our spirit". The organization he founded is described in the words of the Song of Songs: "Tota pulchra est, amica mea, et macula non est in te." (All is beautiful, my love, and there is no fault in thee.) In contrast the Roman Catholic Church is described, in direct quotation of Mgr Escrivá, as contaminated with evil. Using the expression Mystical Body in its traditional sense to refer to the Church, but ironically: "The Church is a rotten, rotten, and at times it seems a corpse in decomposition, that stinks."

Opus Dei, on the other hand, is holy, unchangeable, everlasting; it will never die or grow old; it contains everything necessary for salvation, and no point of this "universal law" can ever be changed. Opus Dei could never need reform. In one of the very few references to the Second Vatican Council, *Cronica* states that Mgr Escrivá anticipated the council in his creation of Opus Dei, and therefore Opus Dei has no need to turn to the council's decrees for moral guidance. It has spread everywhere, affirming the reign of Christ forever. It is the context of "God's work"—*Cronica* often plays on the words "Opus Dei"—and its vocation is universal.

Recruitment to Opus Dei, called Protelation, is the highest priority of every member: it is "the way to reach the road, to reach sanctity". Not to proselytize is to be dead; members should hunger and thirst for proselytism. "Holy shrewdness" and "holy coercion" should be used to win recruits, who should be "pushed little by little but constantly". It is taken for granted that candidates are already devout Roman Catholics, and *Cronica* does not use proselytism to refer to gaining converts for Christianity or Catholicism. In the material available, this is not discussed.

Clifford Longley and Dan van der Vat

## Secretarial and Non-Secretarial Appointments also on page 8

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Paul Routledge on the propaganda war at British Steel which no one may win

Eric Heffer

# The end of the MacGregor honeymoon

One year on from the longest post-war strike, the main union leaders and management in steel are still locked in combat. Voting in the British Steel ballot plan closes this week after a hard-fought propaganda war, and it is quite possible that both sides will claim victory.

The BSC is asking its entire workforce from management down to labourers to endorse the "survival plan" drawn up by Mr Ian MacGregor, the new chairman. A resounding "yes" is expected, since most of the electorate have nothing to lose.

But the largest union in the industry, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, has asked its members to vote "No" to the corporate plan on the grounds that it will create at least a further 22,000 redundancies and pave the way for forcing through revolutionary changes in working practices of the kind now being demanded by Tesco.

There must be at least a strong likelihood that the ISTC members, who do most of the actual production work, will endorse their leader's rejection of the MacGregor strategy. Mr Bill Sims, the union's general secretary, said yesterday: "We should get a majority on proposition two from our members." (see ballot form).

If there is such a contradictory outcome to the ballot, going "Yes" and the ISTC poll going "No", the British Steel Board will be obliged to impose the rundown

programme on a workforce of which a large and influential sector will be in sullen opposition.

Mr Sims and his executive are opposed to the plan, and the methods being used to implement it. They complain bitterly that on his arrival from the over from the lame-duck chairmanship of Sir Charles Villiers, Mr MacGregor promised union involvement in planning a fresh future for the industry. We have advised our people to vote at ballot level. It was put to this plan because they have had no say in its formulation", the ISTC general secretary insisted.

"MacGregor gave us a direct commitment that no plan would be produced until we had an opportunity to provide an input. And his ballot is irrelevant and superfluous, because the board has already accepted the plan. Why did they not put it to the workforce before it was agreed at board level? It was put to the Government in its entirety — and some of it has already been embarked upon", he went on.

And far from being a "survival plan", it is a redundancy and closure plan. In that, it does not differ in any way from the past policies of the corporation. It is a short term expedient. It hopes it will allow them to go to the Government and say "they (the workers) will accept anything the chairman says".

"The corporation have got the bit between their teeth. They are trying to emulate what has happened at British



Steel workers and the ballot paper on the corporate plan.

Leyland. But what they don't appreciate is the past history of the steelworker, who has been co-operative and helpful, and the industrial relations scene has been very good apart from our strike. They are now going beyond Sir Michael Edwards, but they should remember that steel workers are not car workers."

The ISTC leader perceives in British Steel's strategy wider, political force at work. He argues that the "strong management line" is being actively encouraged by Mrs Thatcher and her ministers, who see in it a way to "weaken the whole structure of the trade union movement". He hints at direct contacts between politicians and top management, and the existence of a "secret" in government designed to create a chain-effect of dissipation of union strength.

So there are clearly wider considerations at work than the future of a rod mill here and an ironfoundry there. The trade union movement does not

wake up to the fact that this is happening, it will be a long time before we can recover", Mr Sims added.

The ISTC ballot was launched as a pre-emptive strike when it became evident that British Steel was preparing its own poll of employees. Even the union's leaders do not expect better than a 50-50 vote on the issue of a six-month pay freeze followed by a self-financing seven per cent settlement. And they are not very clear yet on what they would do with a vote to reject the corporate plan.

"I would not want another strike, because of the hardship our people have already suffered", Mr Sims admitted. "I have no intention of asking our people to take such action. They could take action such as a work-to-rule, or they could stop overtime completely. That would stop the industry because they could not operate without overtime."

The parlous state of the industry and the middle course between the militant

Ballot of Members — 1981  
(Manual Grades)  
Employed by the British Steel Corporation

## VOTING PAPER

You are requested to vote on the following. Place a cross thus — X — in the space provided and return this Voting Paper without delay to the Branch Secretary or other person authorised by the Branch Committee to receive it. The Voting Paper of your branch must be received at Central Office not later than Friday, 16th January, 1981.

1. Do you accept a wage increase of 7 per cent from 1st July 1981 which must be self-financing? YES NO
2. Do you endorse the Corporate Plan which will create at least 22,000 further redundancies? YES NO
3. In view of the offer by the B.S.C. are you prepared to continue with the concession of multi-union bargaining at local level on Lump Sum Bonus Schemes? YES NO

position of the steelworkers' union (which is not supported in this battle by the craft and general unions nor by the blast-furnace) and the seemingly-endless retrenchment policies of the corporation.

According to union figures, the slide in United Kingdom steel output is even worse than feared. Britain made 11.5 million tonnes in 1980 and slumped to 15th largest producer — not only behind little Belgium with one-tenth our population, some large developing nations such as Brazil, but behind Eastern block nations such as Poland, Czechoslovakia and Rumania.

In the European Community as a whole, production fell last year by 8.5 per cent, though Italy's output rose by nearly 10 per cent, but Britain performed catastrophically, with a fall of 46.5 per cent, only half of which could be laid at the door of the national strike the union argues.

Collapsing output on such a scale makes fertile ground for

dissect and blame-laying in any industry, and steel is no exception. After the brief honeymoon period in which he debated on the same side as Mr Sims at the Oxford Union, Mr MacGregor is now regarded as "a good salesman, but unco-operative with the unions." A gulf is steadily opening up between the two men at the top on both sides that bodes ill for the industry.

They will have to meet to discuss where British Steel goes from here once the result of this week's voting is known. And even if Mr Sims fails to get a mandate for opposition to the "survival plan" (as the will- ingness of yet more Port Talbot steelmen to accept redundancy would suggest), the "best interests of industrial relations in BSC are more likely to be served by a rapprochement at the top than by a fresh outbreak of steel management self-confidence.

Labour Editor

# This is no excuse to leave the party

There are some Labour MPs who at the moment are giving Labour's political enemies succour and comfort in what is clearly an orchestrated series of speeches and articles, containing threats of splits, resignations and new political alignments, all designed to blackmail or at least pressure delegates attending Labour's special conference on January 24. By doing this, they hope to spread fear and confusion among party members who passionately and rightly desire a united Labour Party.

It has been suggested that Labour is "crumbling at the edges" and there have been press reports of discussions between certain Labour MPs and Liberals regarding possible electoral arrangements in their constituencies. It has also been reported that up to a dozen Labour MPs might be prepared to stand as independents in the next general election.

Dr David Owen, who is reputed to be the most militant of the "gang of three", continues to declare his opposition to all forms of an electoral college as well as to certain other policies agreed at the last party conference.

All this is undoubtedly causing a degree of confusion among Labour supporters.

The policy decisions which are causing the most dissent are those on defence, the EEC and Labour's commitment to public ownership.

With regard to defence, Labour Party policy is for multi-lateral nuclear disarmament and the removal of all nuclear weapons and bases from British soil. This is not too dissimilar to the policy advocated in Labour's manifesto during the last general election. On the EEC, Labour has changed its previous policy from negotiation for fundamental changes to one of withdrawal.

The National Executive Committee of the party, however, recognises that withdrawal from the EEC requires close examination and discussion. Even the question of a possible referendum before Britain leaves the EEC is still open for discussion. Whatever happens, however, Labour cannot turn its back on Europe, and must strengthen its ties with all genuinely democratic forces in Europe. I personally believe it should have a perspective of a united socialist Europe.

On the question of public ownership, no one to my knowledge in the Labour Party wishes publicly to own everything. The whole issue of public ownership, how it should be done, what forms it should take, how the industries should be administered, etc., continues to be a matter for serious discussion within the limits of clause 4 of Labour's constitution.

The above policy issues are open to debate as policy questions have always been since the Labour Party was first established. What then is the sticking point? Those who are now making noises which are being interpreted as support for new political alignments? I am told by two of the so-called "gang of three" that it is mainly the question of the proposed electoral college to be set up for the election of leader and deputy leader of the party.

Recently Dr Owen has spelt out his fears and is reported in the *Financial Times* as having said that if the party were to accept the electoral college it would "profoundly affect the nature of the Labour Party for many decades to come."

He also believes that if the Labour Party goes ahead with the electoral college then millions of past Labour supporters would realize that the party has irrevocably changed.

Over the past few months a great deal of alarmist nonsense has been peddled about the effects of an electoral college on parliamentary democracy and allegations have been made that such a college would be a

step towards a totalitarian state. In my view those who argue this not only want to continue present elitist parliamentary practices, but to strengthen them even further. While Parliament is undoubtedly the pinnacle of our democratic electoral system, surely it can't be suggested that it is the sum total of our democracy in Britain.

On the basis of his report statement "are we to say that no future Labour government will ever dare to disagree with some big trade unions?" would appear that Dr Owen has never really understood the true nature of the Labour Party which was created by the trade unions and through the system of the political levy has always been financially supported by them. That is why the Labour Party is unique in Europe, an almost not totally a trade union party, has always been based upon them.

This is underlined by the fact that the National Executive Committee has only seven constituency Labour Party representatives on it, whilst 11 trade unions have 12 and the union votes which decide the leadership of the party and the membership of the women's section on the NEC.

Through the block vote system the unions have always determined policy and will continue to do so, although soon or later the way the block vote is cast must be examined. It has been argued by opponents of the electoral college that block votes could involve Communists and Conservatives deciding who the leader of the party should be. That could be done, but it is also possible that if it were true, also, policies at present decided by the block vote at conference and it is not the right way to go to the top of the Labour Party have never challenged the way in which policy decisions have been arrived at.

Unlike the peevish minority who would like to sabotage I hope that Labour's special conference will make a firm decision on the future method of electing the leader and deputy leader, and that it will take the form of an electoral college.

Those whose ideas are derailed no matter who they are should accept their defeat with good grace. There are no grounds for anyone to brea away from the party unless they have already made up their mind to do so and are seeking excuses to justify the action.

The author is Labour MP for Liverpool, Walton.



Dr David Owen continues to declare his opposition to all forms of an electoral college

## The right to know and the right to conceal

Peter Jay

Last week's government reshuffle doubtless had many objectives, but in particular sought to end, or at least to reduce the apparent conflict between them.

One, it seems, was to staunch the flow of "leaks" from which apparently Cabinet proceedings had been suffering. The other was to improve the quality of "government information".

The uninitiated might simply-mindedly suppose that the most obvious way to improve government information would be to augment rather than restrict the flow of leaks. But that would be to betray a woeful ignorance of the important distinction between "government information" and information about government.

Prolonged observation from every angle of successive governments of all shapes, sizes and colours settles that there is only one possible successful definition of "government information" and, derivatively of the difference between "government information" and a "leak".

"Government information" is what the Prime Minister of the moment wishes journalists and others to think and write about government, whether it be true or not. A "leak" is true information about government which the Prime Minister of the day does not wish anyone to think, write or know.

While this may adequately explain the seeming paradox of leaks and reshuffles — the Prime Minister like all

of her predecessors wants better propaganda and less embarrassment — it leaves unresolved an honourable question in the mind of the reflective free citizen, namely, irrespective of the political convenience of governments and the professional vested interests of journalism, is the right frontier in the widest interests of society between what the public has a right to know and what the government has a right to conceal.

Any citizen in particular who happens to have spent about half his working life as a government servant and about half as a journalist, if he has any sense, will have a moral appeal to him at all, likely to have wrestled with this question again and again both with fascination and with pain. Even more poignancy is added for one who as a temporary government servant has sought to practise what he preached formerly as a journalist by drastically curtailing the taxpayers' outlay on "information", eliminating altogether the propaganda element and concentrating instead on primary material, only to find himself the victim of a vivid demonstration of the skills and effectiveness of the very propaganda army he was seeking to demolish!

But there is a reconciliation of the rival interests of government and press which transcends the simple and cynical explanation that where people stand depends, as afore- said, on where they sit. It is not to be found by

following the characteristic American approach of establishing as absolute principles all four of "freedom of the press", "the right to privacy", "freedom of information" and "national security" and then leaving it to a street brawl among lawyers to decide which shall prevail.

It comes rather from making a three-way distinction between secrecy, privacy, and public information. It is legitimate that Parliament should establish certain categories of information as, in the strict sense, "secret" in the sense that national security and other overriding national interests would be prejudiced by disclosure and that the revelation of such information by any one under British jurisdiction is illegal and punishable by law, provided that the definition is very strictly and narrowly drawn and that someone other than the government itself — presumably the courts — is the ultimate arbiter of whether information has been properly so classified.

It is further legitimate that the law should establish a right to privacy of the government itself and allow the government to discipline its own employees and consultants accordingly, provided that the definition of this category relates genuinely and realistically either to the interests of society in government receiving candid, and therefore confidential, advice before reaching decisions or to obligations of confidentiality which governments

owe to others (whether foreign governments, private citizens or independent organizations) as a basis for their necessary dealings with them.

The corollaries are that this right to privacy is not enforceable on those outside government service — if a reporter can get the story, good luck to him — and that the classification of such "private" information must be reviewable by someone other than the government in the case of it being seriously disputed.

All other information about and within the possession of government becomes publicly available on demand, though where appropriate at a fair cost price.

In this way the national interest in a narrow category of truly secret information, the government's proper entitlement to sufficient privacy to perform effectively, the press's freedom to pursue and publish all information that is not genuinely and demonstrably secret in the national interest and the public's right to know are all upheld and reconciled.

The past confusion and incoherence over official secrecy, which arose from the absurd pretence that national security justified withholding information which had no discernible bearing on national security and the equally absurd pretence that all information not properly protected on grounds of national security should be instantly available to the public, are largely removed once the quite distinct concept of the government's right to privacy is carefully applied.

This doctrine of public privacy does not, of course, define the right of private privacy, which is still a pressing need in English law and policy. Nor does it define what, if any, limits there are on what an editor or journalist should be prepared to publish if he can find it out. A properly defined national secrecy and a suitably enacted right to private privacy would impose two legal boundaries.

But there are likely to be others, though the risks of abuse make it imperative that they should be self-imposed as a matter of ethics, not imposed from without as a matter of censorship. Broadly, they can only be derived from the principle that a journalist is a human being who as such is responsible morally for all the foreseeable consequences of his own actions, which can in certain extreme cases of perfectly truthful publication extend to the certain death of innocent people.

A journalist must have a strong presumption in favour of finding out all he can and publishing it, because a vigorous free press is essential to the health of society; and it cannot succeed if its practitioners do not have such a commitment. But no journalist is entitled to say to himself because he is a journalist he may — or must — write or publish something the predictable consequences of which would be morally indefensible if encompassed by an ordinary citizen.

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New words and new meanings: an occasional series

## Here's a pretty kettle of horseflesh

Metaphors and clichés grow old. We use them without noticing what we are saying, without tripping passing through our minds. So we end up saying strange things.

For example, it has become common to talk of locking the stable door after the horse has bolted. This is odd, and suggests that our generation is not at home with horses. Horses are silly creatures, but even they seldom if ever bolt from their stables. Stable is home, where they eat and sleep and are happy and do not have to stag-

ger about bow-legged, carrying members of the horse class. At the end of a journey, when they realize that they are coming towards the stable, they tend to bolt towards the stable.

The proverb is very old, goes back to horse thieves, and should be to lock the stable door after the horse has been stolen. It is too late to shut the stable door when the steed is stolen. There is a (doggish) Latin source from the twelfth century:

*Maxima pars pecore amisso praesepia claudit.* He shuts

the stable door after most of the flock has gone missing.

In English in the fourteenth century Gower wrote in *Confessio Amantis*: "For when the great steed is stole, then he taketh heed, and maketh the stable door fast."

Today we are less familiar with horse thieves. Bolding is the sort of irrationality we expect from horses. And so our modern variant makes nonsense of the proverb.

Turning to a different kettle of fish, over the past decade we

have created a nonsensical proverb about a different kettle of fish. Different from what, pray? It would be disturbing enough to have one kettle of fish. To have a different one as well would be too much.

The proverbial expression is correctly a pretty or fine kettle of fish, meaning a muddle, snafu or awkward state of things. "Here's a pretty kettle of fish" wrote Gilbert, that precise user of English, in *Jolantie*. I think "Here's a pretty kettle of fish", cried Mrs Tow-wouse in Fielding's *Joseph*.

Andrews (1742). "If so, we shall have a fine kettle of fish at Seringapatam", wrote the Duke of Wellington in 1800. There is indeed a shortage of metaphors for difference, since the old horse of a different colour is now what we call a possible sense of difference does a kettle of fish signify?

A more recent metaphor that seems to be straying is the one about mending fences. There is a saying, saying was once used to mean that when relations are becoming bad with your neighbour, you do the equivalent of

our old "look to your moat". Today we have started to talk about mending fences when relations are good. Congressmen go home from Washington to mend their fences; renew contact with, make their peace with, and generally butter up their constituents.

I think that we have confused the saying with the responsibility of neighbours to keep their fences in good order, which is a different kettle of fish altogether.

Philip Howard

## THE BALLAD OF JUDGE LEE

"The ballad of Judge Lee" sounds as if it should be one of those emotional old songs of the pioneering West ("and they hanged him from a tree, poor Judge Lee, or something). It is emotional, sure enough, but it's from the South, not the West, and from being old it was composed and recorded in two days last week in Alexandria, Louisiana.

The chorus goes: "Judge Lee, he has set the people free, Judge Lee, it's the only way to be." Not Noel Coward, for sure, but successful enough to rise quickly to the top of the hit parade in a town where a car wash displays the heart-felt sign: "Thank God for Dick Lee."

Judge Richard Lee became an instant celebrity last week not just in central Louisiana but across middle America. He is the first authentic hero of the Reagan era, a conservative standing alone and equating his shoulders against the all-conquering liberal aggressor: a latter-day Canute but with, as he and his friends see it, a real chance now of turning the tide. An elected State Judge, he defied the ruling of a Federal Judge and ordered the all-white

high school at Buckeye, 25 miles from Alexandria, to admit three white girls who under the Federal Judge's desegregation order should have gone to a mixed-race school in the town. To get them readmitted to Buckeye, which they had all attended before the desegregation order, their parents had ceded legal custody to friends in the Buckeye attendance area. The Federal Judge, Mr Nauman Scott, declared the device illegal this week. Mr Lee, the girls' parents and the school headmaster are to be asked in Federal Court to show cause why they should not be fined for contempt.

To write of a reemergence of conservatism in the South is misleading, because there it never really went away. White conservatives in the South resented many of the moves by the Democratic Administration in Washington, but until November saw no prospect of resigning them effectively.

The election of Mr Ronald Reagan, an arch-conservative, has emboldened them to fight. School busing to promote desegregation is a classic example of the evil they see in government do-goodism, inter-

ference that forces people to act in a way they do not want to. Alexandria is a town of 50,000 people in the middle of Louisiana. It is the rough dividing marker between the northern part of the state, whose people are mainly Protestant in the traditional mould of the American South, and the southern part, where Catholics predominate, many of them Cajuns descended from the early French settlers and still speaking French among themselves. In the town itself nearly half the people are black but hardly any blacks live in the surrounding country districts.

Race relations here seem especially good not especially bad. Black and white live in carefully defined separate areas but there is little open hostility.

There is a small cell of the Ku-Klux-Klan in Alexandria. A few months ago, soon after Mr Scott introduced his desegregation plan, a half dozen hooded people burnt a cross outside the office of Mr Louis Barry, a black lawyer. He had acted on behalf of the group to introduce the original case to



here in 1965, seeking greater integration with the schools in accordance with the 1954 Supreme Court decision.

Mr Barry was born in Alexandria and has practised law there since 1948. His view on race relations in the district differs from the benign opinions of most whites I spoke to.

"There is a strong right-wing movement here", he said. A lot of people who don't belong to the Klan or agree with them are everywhere have some of the philosophy of the Klan.

"It's subtle. It's not overt but covert. There's a lot of tokenism and it's hard for blacks to get jobs. The race problem still exists here. There are still three single-race schools in the district and two of them are black."

Responding to Mr Barry's suit, the Federal Government hired an expert in desegregation to draw up a plan for the Alexandria area. Ironically, when Mr Scott saw the plan, he set to work modifying it. It was much more radical than what he finally introduced, and, in his opinion, would have caused even greater offence.

Explaining the feelings of local people and the animosity to excluding children to school, he excluded some rural schools from the plan. Buckeye high, although more than a hundred of its pupils were assigned to other schools, was among those exempted. No black students were required to be bused the 25 miles from Alexandria to balance its rolls.

Yet he could not avoid the anger of white parents. Under the plan, another white school was closed altogether. Parents kept it open by organizing classes themselves. Until Mr Scott served an order on them to stop.

While the Buckeye dispute derived from the Scott desegregation plan, Mr Lee and the girls' parents insist that race is not the issue. Mrs Lee Laborde, the mother of Michelle Laborde, one of the "Buckeye three", pointed out that Michelle and her older sisters have previously attended mixed-race schools and the family had no objections to it.

"I have black friends over here this morning offering me support," she said.

But Mr Barry says: "Basically there is a racial angle. I've been my experience that white parents always resist sending their children to school in a predominantly black area."

One reason Mrs Laborde took so strong a stand on behalf of her daughter is a peculiarly southern one, hard to understand if you are unfamiliar with the region. At Buckeye, Michelle had been head cheer-

leader, a position carrying high social cache. Sports are an obsession here, especially football. Last week's newspaper filled page after page with reports and pictures reviewing important weekend games involving Dallas, from neighbouring Texas.

American football is not a game girls can comfortably play, even if you stretch sexual equality to its limits. Instead, they participate by performing indescribable gyrations on the touch line to goad their team's supporters to frenzy.

It is all highly organised and the head cheerleader bears significant responsibility. When Michelle first had to leave Buckeye under the desegregation plan, her parents sent her to a private school which, however, was too small to field a football team. Cheerleading at that level is not at all the same thing.

So she pleaded with her mother to find a way to send her back to Buckeye. Then the plan to hand her over to surrogate parents was devised.

Many feel deeply that Mr Scott's refusal to recognize the transfer as legitimate was insupportable intervention in a

personal matter. Michelle's father, Mr Nelson Laborde, bank cashier, said:

"I'm not a crusader. I'm a law-abiding citizen who wants to do what the law said could be done. The good Lord entrusted me with a child and wants me to protect her to the best of my ability. . . . if the feeling of the people of the United States aren't to be respected, what is the government for?"

Mrs Laborde's sister, Mrs Diane Bell, said: "It's just like a communist country if they don't let her go to the school she wants."

These arguments have been rehearsed many times. In 1954 the Supreme Court decided that a child's right to go to the school of its parents' choice must be subordinated to the general interests in giving that, after 26 years, this decision has yet to be fully implemented is a measure of the resistance to it. Those who have never accepted it hope that at last, after so long, they will soon have full integration in Washington interested in helping them resist.

Michael Leapman





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## MR MUGABE'S GAMBLE

In the reshuffle of the Zimbabwean cabinet Mr Mugabe has taken a calculated risk with apparent dexterity. On the one hand, putting Mr Tsekere out to grass simultaneously disposes of an embarrassment in dealing with the jittery white skilled cadres and with the little less jittery foreign investors and at the same time reduces the power and intrigues of the Zanu (PF) extremists inside the government. It reduces the ever-contingent threat to Mr Mugabe's supremacy. On the other hand, the demotion of Mr Joshua Nkomo removes the hand of the Patriotic Front (Zanu) from a lever of power, the para-military police. At the same time Mr Mugabe has attempted to appease that party's wrath by offering it another cabinet post which raises its quota of ministers, and the corresponding advantages of office, slightly above its proportion of parliamentary strength.

To his own activists Mr Mugabe can say that to further reduce Mr Nkomo's power he had to remove Mr Tsekere temporarily as a means of saving the coalition for the time being. To Mr Nkomo's alarmed supporters he can say that he has removed Mr Nkomo's greatest enemy, which could not be done without some quid pro quo. And to the whites he can say that he has disarmed both duellists—and has not had to touch the two quite important white ministers.

Whether this sleight-of-hand will prove to be too clever for Mr Emerson Mwaanga in charge of the new national army and Mr Richard Rove, as Mr Nkomo's

successor, in charge of the police, there has been an unmistakable shift of power to Mr Mugabe's party—albeit to its pragmatic and moderate wing. Moreover, these changes follow Mr Shamuira's take-over of the South African owned newspapers—whose loss of independence Mr Nkomo saw as a threat to himself—and the rioting in Bulawayo in December in which Mr Nkomo suffered a serious political setback.

Mr Mugabe must have considered the possibility that Mr Nkomo would be forced to withdraw from the coalition. Such a break-up would at this early stage hardly suit him. It would re-emphasize tribal animosities and sharpen white fears of civil war between the Shona and Ndebele. So he presumably thinks he has taken Mr Nkomo's measure—remembering that Mr Nkomo barely committed his guerrillas to the shooting war and left the fighting mainly to Zanu's men. At the outset Mr Mugabe showed some of his feelings by not making Mr Nkomo his deputy. He may calculate that Mr Nkomo will back down after some bargaining over the status of the new portfolios.

Mr Nkomo is in trouble. If he pulls out of the coalition he becomes the official opposition, which in Africa rarely becomes the government. He is not young, and more rebuffs would lower his standing with his young Turks. His party would cling even more to its residual source of leverage, its 15,000 well armed guerrillas. They would hardly see Mr Nkomo as their real leader. So Mr Nkomo may decide some status in cabinet is

better than the darkening wilderness outside.

But Mr Mugabe is taking a real risk. Mr Nkomo is the most pliable Ndebele partner he could have. His successors will be harder men. It will then become more difficult to proceed with the process of returning the Ndebele guerrillas to civil life or integrating them in the national army; and that will have repercussions on the Shona guerrillas. In western eyes Zimbabwe's best hope of reconstruction, with a successive land resettlement to remove the basic sources of black discontent, is to keep a front of unity at the centre and gradually reduce suspicion and tension in the countryside. In time the guerrilla forces would then melt away.

But that is not necessarily how African politicians see the issue. In the majority of African states the dominant tribal group rules and enjoys the lion share of the sweets of office, while the minority or minorities either submit or rebel and secede. The Ibos in Nigeria took the latter course but failed; the prospects for the Ndebele are not significantly better. (A situation perhaps not to be lost on the minority tribes and parties negotiating with Swapo, the party of the Ovambo majority, in Geneva.) Mr Nkomo's party, of course, is not likely to raise an insurrection soon. There are many ways in which the Ndebele can make a nuisance of themselves to Salisbury if they really want to. But if the coalition breaks up, then a drift towards a violent confrontation becomes a real possibility.

## THEY ARE NOT ON A RISING TIDE

Since it is often necessary to deplore the way unions connected with passenger transport tend to go on strike just at holidaytime, professedly by pure coincidence, it is fair to give members of the National Union of Seamen a word of credit for not having disrupted seaborne Christmas reunions and winter sports excursions last month. The campaign of selective stoppages in ferry services decided on earlier in December has got off to a slow start. The decision to intensify it from today, with additional sanctions, will no doubt cause inconvenience to a larger number of travellers. But it is a mark of the decline of the British merchant marine that effects of this kind seem likely to loom larger than any threat to the national economy. British ships no longer carry enough trade to be able to strangle our commerce.

No group of workers should inflict serious inconvenience on innocent members of the public

in a trade dispute without having a major grievance as justification. The seamen's union does not have much reason to feel aggrieved at the offer made last month, and that is a number of signs that many members of the union are not aggrieved. The proposals rejected by the union's leaders on Saturday represent a rise of 12 per cent on the employers' calculation. This is well in advance of the current going rate for settlements, which seems to be lower than 10 per cent at present. Car workers at Ford's for instance, seem likely to accept an offer close to 9.5 per cent shortly.

When members of the seamen's union in Britain were balloted over the 10.5 per cent offer that the shipping employers made in November, the offer was rejected, but only by a majority of 12 per cent, on a low poll. Crews have responded lukewarmly as yet to the invitation to mount selective stoppages. It is likely that they see more clearly than the leaders of their union the danger in which they stand, in an industry which has seen the loss of 8,000 jobs in the last three years, half among ratings, only 19,000 of whom now have jobs in British ships.

The last year or two would in any case have been difficult ones for the merchant navy, because the rising value of the pound has directly affected its competitiveness. But wage costs, which represent roughly half the cost of running a ship, have in addition risen 54 per cent for British ships in the last three years, while in West German ships they have risen scarcely half as much, and in Dutch and Japanese ships only 13 and 15 per cent. There is growing concern, besides, from the subsidized East European fleets, and from the Third World. The merchant navy is in no state to make further concessions, and many British seamen know it.

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Today the leftist politicians who originally joined the military government in 1979 have long broken with it; and even Colonel Adolfo Majano, one of the authors of that year's coup, is in hiding. The moderate leftists have joined the guerrillas of the far left in an opposition front, the Democratic Revolutionary Front. Only President Duarte, a leading Christian Democrat, has remained with the military.

Faced with the collapse of its attempt to encourage, or rather to create, a centrist force in Salvadoran politics, the Carter Administration has persisted in its support for the military regime. The general expectation is that Mr Reagan, when he takes over, will do the same, and will step up American assistance considerably. But any attempt to intervene more actively in Central America—by propping up the Salvadoran and Guatemalan governments or by trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan regime—could well backfire on him. It would not only be condemned by influential governments in Latin America, but could lead to the setting up of just the anti-American leftist regimes it was intended to avoid.

from Elstree is limited by the plant and process which are largely out-moded and inefficient by modern standards.

Whilst acknowledging the inadequacies of the buildings at the Elstree plant, I must point out that it is entirely wrong to describe the manufacturing processes used by the Blood Products Laboratory in these terms. On the contrary, the technology used by the Blood Products Laboratory is entirely up-to-date and is, according to the department's expert advisers, likely to remain valid for some years to come.

Similar processes are in operation in the majority of blood products manufacturing facilities built in the last decade. Further, as a measure of efficiency, the yields of blood products which the Elstree plant achieves are as good as, or better than, those of many other—including more modern—plants. The Blood Products Laboratory currently processes all the plasma supplied by the regional transfusion centres in England and Wales. The laboratory is at present being upgraded at a cost in excess of £1.25m to enable it, amongst other things, to handle substantially increased volumes of plasma. This will increase the output of certain of its major products by up to 100 per cent.

The question of coordinating the facilities at Elstree with those of the Protein Fractionation Centre at Edinburgh is one which has been receiving urgent attention. I can

assure Mr Meakin that the United Kingdom health departments are working closely together to establish a unified structure for blood products manufacture. This will ensure that the best possible use is made of the existing production facilities at Elstree and Edinburgh. Yours faithfully, E. L. HARRIS, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health and Social Security, Alexander Fleming House, Elephant and Castle, SE1, January 7.

## Subsidies for the arts

From Mr James Lipscombe  
Sir, Further to Sir Ralph Richardson's letter (January 7), few object to subsidising the National Youth Theatre. Many object to subsidising opera, ballet and concerts where leading performers are paid very high salaries. If these performers can command these wages in a free market, well and good. But there is no justice in removing a slice of my modest wage to keep a large soprano in luxury in Switzerland. If her supporters wish to do so, that is their business entirely. Yours faithfully, JAMES LIPSCOMBE, Thakerton, Biggar, Lanarkshire, January 7.

## Clarification of criminal law

From Mr A. T. H. Smith  
Sir, You report this morning (January 9) that the Attorney General is to bring a "test case" to determine the scope of the Auction (Bidding Agreements) Act 1927. His action in doing so raises a question of fundamental importance for our system of criminal justice.

At present, we have no mechanism for determining the scope of the criminal law other than the process of prosecution. This runs entirely counter to the principle that the criminal law should be both certain and ascertainable in advance. It is right that the good name, property and even liberty of individuals should be jeopardised for the sake of clarifying inadequately drafted laws?

An alternative declaratory judgment procedure should be available, so that the citizen can discover whether or not what he proposes to do is criminal without having to endure the costs and tensions of a criminal trial.

Yours faithfully, A. T. H. SMITH, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, January 3.

## Principles of justice

From Professor Colonel G. I. A. D. Draper  
Sir, Lord Rawlinson prefaces his letter (January 7) on this topic with the words, "Once upon a time there was a country associated with the opening of a fairy story." He continues, "...there was an old British principle that a man was presumed innocent until proven guilty". This principle, as part of our criminal law, did not enter upon the legal scene until comparatively late on in its history, possibly in the 17th century.

When it did become established its consequences were for a long time singularly unfortunate for the luckless accused faced with a serious criminal indictment. The view was taken that as the prosecution had the burden of proof the defence need do nothing. This meant that the accused could not call defence witnesses, have the benefit of counsel or be competent as a witness for his own defence. This last impediment was not removed until 1893. Counsel could not be assigned, generally, to him until 1937, and witnesses were not called for him, generally, until 1902.

The reverse principle to that referred to by Lord Rawlinson, namely, that it was for the accused to prove his innocence, formed part of the canon law and was still operative in church jurisdiction in this country until the 18th century. The consequences of this principle were highly beneficial to the accused.

The canon law view was that since the accused bore a burden of proof, it was entitled to call witnesses for his defence. The prosecution having a purely passive role, could call none. The result was that accused were acquitted with monotonous regularity. (Phuckton, *Concise History of the Common Law*, 5th edition, 1956, p.438.)

Life, unlike fairy stories, is full of surprises. I am, Sir, Your obedient servant, G. I. A. D. DRAPER, 16 Southover High Street, Lewes, Sussex.

## Medical redundancies

From Mr A. D. Cheesman and others  
Sir, We are members of the academic board of the Institute of Laryngology and Otology and have been horrified that the current problems over university finance have resulted in the committee of management of this Institute retiring or making redundant six senior and junior members of this staff.

The Institute, which is an established university reader in virology and senior lecturer in microbiology have been given three months notice. Apart from the personal humiliation and financial stress this will impose upon two men of established reputations, one with an international reputation, such cuts may have endangered the viability of the Institute itself, its research programmes, cross-infection and routine bacteriological and virological tests on patients who may be referred for specialist opinions to the associated hospitals of the Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, and the Institute of Laryngology and Otology. We know of no other similar situation pertaining to other institutes in the University of London.

The manner in which these cuts have been applied at short notice has made us anxious that colleagues elsewhere might be similarly affected. We feel that the readers of *The Times* should know this. Yours faithfully, A. D. CHEESMAN, W. GIBSON, DAVID T. KEMP, GLYN A. S. LLOYD, N. ANTHONY MARTIN, N. SHAH, LEONARD SINCLAIR, S. D. G. STEPHENS, The Royal National Throat, Nose & Ear Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, WC1.

## Job for the jobbers

From Mr C. L. Fox  
Sir, You report (January 8) that directors of Messrs Akroyd & Smithers, the stock-jobbers, paid themselves almost doubled salaries last year, each receiving between £80,000 and £100,000.

May I suggest that these gentlemen could now serve their country well, and help Mrs Thatcher, by travelling up and down the land explaining to mass meetings why all industrial workers should settle for single-figure wage rises, and giving pep talks to gatherings of the unemployed on street corners in South Wales and North Britain.

Yours sincerely, C. L. FOX, Featherbrow, The Ridges, Finchampstead, Berkshire.

## Israel and 'The Land of Palestine'

From Mr Amir Nashashibi

Sir, As a Palestinian who, in common with hundreds of thousands of other Palestinians, has endured the fate of the Damians, the Zamzams and others mentioned in your recent series of "The Land of Palestine", I beg to dispute your assertion that "many Palestinians... have chosen... not to start new lives".

In point of fact, almost all Palestinians despoiled of their homes and properties in Palestine, who could, did start new lives; witness the fact that in most of the Arab world, and in other countries, Palestinians have done and are doing remarkably well.

But, of course, as in any community anywhere there were among them the old, the infirm and the unskilled. There were also those who, being strangers in other countries, competing with the local work force, have seen opportunities closed to them. Most of these have been and are still living in refugee camps. However, if you imply that for the Palestinians starting a new life should be a relinquishing of their civil and political rights in the land of their birth, settling and melting among other peoples, permanently losing their identity and, as Palestinians, disappearing, I beg, again, to differ.

It may be said, of course, that such a "new life" would be in the Palestinians' best interests: as it would, among other things, restore to them the peace of mind which they have lost. But such a "new life" would be the result not of a free choice, but of the fact that they have been deprived of their fatherland, their private properties and all the rights concomitant thereto unjustly. And, for the Palestinians, to forgo the right to keep their property in their own country and to accept to lose their identity is to accept injustice.

Injustice, I submit, is always difficult to accept and when it has been inflicted by force with great cruelty, injustice is impossible to accept: in the case of the Palestinians this wound is too deep. That, I believe, is the most important reason for the Palestinians' profound attachment to the title deeds of their properties in Palestine.

This injustice, this wound, is, of course, the root cause of the perennially dangerous tension in the Arab world.

If, however, the Palestinians can have their own independent and sovereign state in the Israeli-occupied territories of Palestine (although it would be in only one fifth of the original Palestinian area), their emigration will be partly restored and having recovered their identity, they will be amenable to start life on a new acceptable basis and live peacefully with their Jewish neighbours.

Yours faithfully, AMIR NASHASHIBI, Chelsea Cloisters, Sloane Avenue, SW3, January 6.

## From Mr John Reddaway

Sir, Many Palestinians and many of Sir, Brigadier Blinwell (December 31) quite rightly draws attention to areas in the defence budget where sensible economies could be made without detriment to military capability. Other aspects of the United Kingdom's defence budget which amount to as much as one-tenth of the total expenditure can be regarded as fulfilling "social needs".

The defence budget for last year included £110m on medical services, £70m on education, £35m on housing for married people and £300m on service pensions. Costs of this order of magnitude if they were not included in the defence budget would be an additional burden on Britain's health, social security and education services, and the resources available for house building and local authority housing.

Besides these considerable items, the defence budget carries the expense of other services which do not count strictly as matters in the field of defence but which the armed services carry out to the ultimate benefit of the nation as a whole. For example, the Hydrographic Survey of the Navy, whose ships survey the waters of the British coast and in many other parts of the world, constitutes the backbone of an organization which provides an unrivalled chart service used by mariners throughout the world. The £2m or £10m it costs each year to run yields as much benefit for the United Kingdom's shipping and trade interests as it does for purely strategic purposes; and as ship sizes

becomes more expensive in life and happiness than to accept it". But where they might differ from you is in the implication that the choice, in such circumstances is limited to either reversal or acceptance.

There are serious difficulties about the line of argument you take. Once the world had accepted, that the passage of time renders conquest irreversible, where and how do we draw the line and tell the conqueror "enough is enough"? In the present case, are you saying that the Palestinians should accept as irreversible the Israeli conquest in 1948 of the area allotted to the Jewish State in the United Nations Partition Plan? Or, in addition, its conquest at that time of half of the area allotted to the proposed Palestine? Or its retention of part but not all of its 1967 conquests (in addition to those of 1948)? Or its retention of Arab Palestine?

Again, in the course of time is any conquest irreversible? Your line of argument leads many Palestinians to conclude that what has been taken by force can and should be regained by force, whenever they may have the power to do so. Thirdly, if conquest has created a state of affairs that is manifestly and intolerably unjust to the defeated party, it is futile for the rest of the world to try to convince them that it is reversible. Indeed that may well be contrary to the real interest of the victors since in that way they will never be able to secure a durable peace.

The Palestinians have put forward as their preferred solution, the reunification of Israel/Palestine under a secular, democratic form of government. However impracticable that may be, it does address the essential problem of trying to find a compromise between reversing conquest and accepting it. But many Palestinians do now understand that they cannot impose their "dream" on the Jewish people of Israel—any more than the Israeli Jews can impose their "dream" of Eretz Israel on the Palestinian people.

If reunification is not the answer, perhaps the world ought to be looking afresh at reparation. Nor of course, the absurd Allon Plan of a "territorial compromise" which would divide up between Israel and Palestinians even the meagre remnant (less than a quarter) of the Palestinian homeland which remained in Arab hands after the fighting ended in 1948; but a genuine compromise which would try to do justice between the two peoples as they exist today and within the land which they both claim as their own. A suitable instrument for re-examining separation as a solution to the conflict already exists within the United Nations. The Palestine Conciliation Commission, consisting of the United States, France and Turkey, has been moribund for some years past, but it is not yet defunct. Why should not the General Assembly reactivate it and instruct it to propose a new partition plan as the basis for "a just and lasting peace"?

Yours faithfully, JOHN REDDAWAY, 19 Woodways, Sydenham Hill, SE26.

## Hard choices on defence

From Mr Alan Lee Williams  
Sir, Brigadier Blinwell (December 31) quite rightly draws attention to areas in the defence budget where sensible economies could be made without detriment to military capability. Other aspects of the United Kingdom's defence budget which amount to as much as one-tenth of the total expenditure can be regarded as fulfilling "social needs".

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Besides these considerable items, the defence budget carries the expense of other services which do not count strictly as matters in the field of defence but which the armed services carry out to the ultimate benefit of the nation as a whole. For example, the Hydrographic Survey of the Navy, whose ships survey the waters of the British coast and in many other parts of the world, constitutes the backbone of an organization which provides an unrivalled chart service used by mariners throughout the world. The £2m or £10m it costs each year to run yields as much benefit for the United Kingdom's shipping and trade interests as it does for purely strategic purposes; and as ship sizes

increase so does the importance of the Hydrographic Survey to the civil maritime interests.

Also of importance is the Meteorological Office, whose annual cost of £22m is borne by the defence budget, and again contributing to the life of the nation in a variety of ways, some of which have a direct bearing on Britain's economic prosperity.

The United Kingdom fisheries regulations, which were designed to control fishing areas and costs, are a national interest enforced by the Royal Navy. Ten ships were engaged at Ministry of Defence expense at the height of the Icelandic fishery dispute protecting United Kingdom fishermen. More ships patrol the area of oil and gas exploitation upon which Britain's economic future depends.

Five new ships are being built for off-shore tasks, and these will operate with four RAF Nimrod aircraft for surveillance. The Ministry of Defence are bearing on defence votes the capital costs (at present about £5m a year) of these new ships, which when deployed will essentially be employed on civil-orientated tasks. These are clearly important national resources, of oil, gas and fish, and it is obviously essential that the Government should do whatever is necessary to protect them.

But should all this be borne on the defence vote? Yours faithfully, ALAN LEE WILLIAMS, Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1, December 31.

## The value of music

From the Master of Music, Winchester College

Sir, I hope that I am not alone in being saddened by Mr Kinnear's letter (January 2) about instrumental music teaching in Somerset schools. Must we really accept that the marvellous vision of such people as Bernard Shore, Dame Ruth Ralston and a host of devoted music advisers and teachers after the war will now prove only to be a mirage? Their vision was to bring instrumental music within the reach of everyone. They believed that young people could aspire to and often reach the highest standards.

The results nationally have been truly remarkable. The European Youth Orchestra, with its high proportion of British musicians; the National Youth Orchestra; the youth orchestras in Scotland and Wales; in counties and schools playing at levels of excellence which are an undisturbed thirty years ago, testify that instrumental music has been one of the few undisputed successes in our national education.

It is now fairly generally accepted that, exceptionally talented young musicians should be provided with specialist music schools. But there are a large number of others, perhaps less outstanding or not neces-

sarily committed to a musical career, for whom musical education is still of the greatest importance.

Rather than destroying instrumental music in schools, county education authorities should surely be thinking of ways to make it more effective, at least for such children. This could perhaps be done by incorporating instrumental class teaching more completely into the primary school curriculum, and by selecting those who show obvious talent and enthusiasm for further teaching at secondary level, with parental contributions if fair and necessary.

Instrumental music may not be a curriculum subject, but it does play an important part in O and A level syllabi, and it would be sad indeed if many children were unable to benefit from these courses. For the 10 instrumental teachers of Somerset and for their pupils, the county's decision is a catastrophe. If other authorities follow their example, the long-term prospects for music and musicians will be bleak indeed. Let another victory of the Philistines over the Davidites... Yours faithfully, ANGUS WATSON, 9 Kingsgate Street, Winchester, Hampshire, January 2.

## Conservation of the wetlands

From Mr John Parslow

Sir, The declared intention (December 24) of Algeria, India, Chile and Thailand to sign the "Ramsar" convention, so pledging support for the conservation of wetlands of international importance, especially as waterfowl habitat, is to be applauded. However, it is erroneous to suggest that Britain, a contracting party, has made a meaningful commitment. Although it has listed 11 wetlands to be protected under the convention, all are wholly or largely in the ownership of nature conservation organizations, so no actual additional responsibility has been accepted. Furthermore, successive governments have failed to add to the convention any of Britain's 86 sites of international importance for wildfowl, most of which are unprotected; seven years have elapsed since the original 11 sites were designated.

Except in the case of the purchase as a national nature reserve of part of the Ribbles estuary, we in Britain—in contrast to many other countries—have shown a marked reluctance to commit public funds to wetland conservation. Indeed we continue to encourage the destruction of wetlands by providing large subsidies for land drainage. The Somerset Levels, Derwent fens, North Kent Marshes and Fens Marshes are but a few of the international waterfowl sites threatened with drainage paid for with public money.

As currently drafted, the Wildlife and Countryside Bill will do little to remedy this situation. It is earnestly hoped that the Bill will be amended to provide a mechanism whereby the Secretary of State will be empowered to prevent harmful land use changes on such wetland sites (and indeed on all sites of special scientific interest) which would lead to the destruction of the remaining important wetlands can we be said to have fulfilled our obligations to conservation and the international community.

Yours faithfully, JOHN PARSLAW, Director (Conservation), The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire.

## Farm labourers' wages

From Mr G. Scales

Sir, Having taken the trouble to present the farm workers' case in better than usual light, (article, January 5), it is a pity that you had to go and spoil things by illustrating the article with a photograph of a herdman shifting a substance as valueless as slurry with a tool as unsophisticated as a muck-scraper, when in reality, the herdman's skills rest in his ability to extract milk from a cow with a machine as complicated as you'd expect to find in the intensive-care unit of your local hospital.

But that apart, on a race for the job has given us a genuine shiver, today's farmworker is still grossly underpaid! Yours truly, G. SCALES, Coopersale Hall Farm, Epping, Essex.

## Television gift horse

From Mrs Elizabeth Pezzani  
Sir, Television is criticized so often for having a bad effect on children that I should like to record one instance of the good influence it can have.

For twelve years I have tried cajolery, threats and bribery to make my son clean his teeth properly, with no result. However, after he watched a programme on television showing a magnified picture of the bacteria on teeth, he was so horrified that he has cleaned his teeth thoroughly twice a day ever since. Perhaps this item should be repeated on breakfast television so that the nation's school-children start the day with clean teeth? Yours faithfully, ELIZABETH PEZZANI, 27 Grena Road, Richmond, Surrey, January 8.

## Nothing fishy

From Mr David Wolfe

Sir, Your Good Food Guide correspondent who wrote on Hongkong restaurants (January 3) is to be congratulated for the delicacy of his palate. To detect fish (even though it was "hardly detectable") in eggplant with fish sauce is a remarkable feat. It shows the superiority of the British gourmet over the French variety who come here and complain that they cannot taste the shepherd in shepherd's pie.

"Egg-plant with fish sauce" is one of many Chinese dishes in which the name of the sauce refers to its normal use rather than to its ingredients. Yours faithfully, DAVID WOLFE, 13 Greycoat Gardens, Greycoat Street, SW1, January 6.

## Grace note

From Mr Geoffrey Lovett

Sir, After reading his admirable report on the new production of "Les Contes d'Hoffmann" at Florence (January 7) may I assure John Higgins that he need not be surprised that the programme describes Antonia as living in Monaco, as that, in fact, is how Munich is known to the Italians, just as London is known as Londra, and Paris as Parigi.

Confusion would seem unavoidable. Do Italian travellers to the Bavarian capital, I wonder, find themselves with a ticket to the Côte d'Azur? Yours faithfully, GEOFFREY LOVETT, 17 The Ridgeway, Nelson, Lancashire, January 8.

## Passing-out parade

From Mr Jonathan Paget  
Sir, Yesterday (December 19) you published the names and nationalities of those who have recently passed out from Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. The list contained several officers from Iran and Libya.

Both of these nations have acted outrageously by routinely flouting international law and can hardly be said to be friends of ours or our military allies.

What possible excuse can there be for training their military officers in this country? Yours faithfully, JONATHAN PAGET, 61 Westcott Road, Old Town, Swindon, Wiltshire.

## The flow of blood

From Dr E. L. Harris

Sir, As chairman for the management committee for the Blood Products Laboratory at Elstree, I feel I should respond to some of the assertions made by Mr Erian Meakin (January 2) concerning the arrangements for manufacturing blood products in the United Kingdom.

First, I should like to correct a serious inaccuracy in the letter. Mr Meakin claims that "the output







# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

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Clouds on the package holiday trade's horizon, page 15

The switchover to current cost accounts, page 14

Stock markets	FT Ind 46.2	FT Gills 68.63
Sterling	\$23965	Index 79.1
Dollar	Index 86.2	DM19722
Gold	\$577.50	
Money	3 month sterling 141-143	3 month Euro \$ 181-183
	6 month Euro \$ 171-161	
	Friday's close	

### Saudi delay on renewal of 'war relief' oil deals

Saudi Arabia has yet to renew contracts for extra 'war relief' crude oil supplies for any period of 1981, and nervous recipient governments are scrambling for more secure longer-term direct deals. Petroleum Intelligence Weekly reports from New York.

It is uncertain whether any realignment of volumes or clients is planned among the 12-15 countries receiving 500,000-600,000 barrels daily of make-up oil, or whether the time-lag is due to administrative delay.

Agreements made last October and November after the Iraqi war cut their exports had been limited to two or three months of 1980, pending better view of the war's effects. Servicing of the incremental crude supply had been handled by the Aramco partners under instructions of the Saudi government, which specified destinations, quantities and terms. Pricing has been \$2 over Saudi Arabia's own market level, now \$32 a barrel.

### Venezuelan fuel

Universal reports from Caracas that Venezuela has raised its prices for residual fuels by between 50 cents and \$2.50 a barrel, effective immediately. The energy ministry was closed over the weekend, but an official announcement is expected today.

### £2,000m deflation

A net deflationary Budget of some £2,000m will probably be needed this spring to reduce the 1981-82 PSBR to £10,000m, according to stockbroker Laing & Cruckshanks' latest Economic and Monetary Review.

### US budget hitch

America's President-elect Ronald Reagan told journalists at Beverly Hills, California, that the projected \$80,000m (about £24,000m) deficit in the 1981 budget is making things tougher for his economic recovery plan, but he would not say he had changed his plans for a tax cut this year.

### Spanish contracts

Laing SA, the Spanish member of the John Laing Group, has won construction contracts worth about £12m. The largest valued at £4.5m is to build 150 homes in Madrid. The company is also modernizing the Mosoles hospital in the Spanish capital and building a £2.5m football stadium at Valladolid.

### First chairman

Mr John Jarvis will be the first chairman of the Refrigeration Industry Board set up by the Institute of Refrigeration, the British Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Association and the Heating and Ventilation Contractors' Association.

### Concession talks

The United Auto Workers Union said in Detroit that its negotiations with Chrysler Corporation will be moved to Washington today, and the Federal Loan Guarantee Board will begin to take part in the 'sometime' next week. Chrysler wants the union to give up \$673m (about £280m) of concessions.

### Mr Tanaka in Canada

The visit to Ottawa by Mr Rousuke Tanaka, the Japanese international trade minister, today is not expected to settle differences between Japan and Canada, which provides Japanese industry with vital raw materials, but needs to sell Japan more finished goods.

### China joint venture

China's first foreign partner in offshore oil drilling is Total China Hongkong, a French company. The initial drilling will be in an area of 10,000 sq km in Chinese waters off Tongking Bay.

## British Airways brings in tough cash-saving plan as £60m loss expected

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

British Airways is introducing a series of unusually tough measures in an effort to solve a serious shortage of working and long-term investment funds.

The state airline is expected to report a loss of around £60m for the year 1980-81 as the world civil aviation recession bites more deeply.

Measures either already in place or planned for the future include: instructing sales staff to match cheap fares offered by other airlines, however low they may go; postponing delivery of a number of new aircraft; asking staff to defer their annual wage increase until after the start of the new financial year in April.

The airline's legal borrowing limit was recently raised at its request from £300m to £1,000m and sources in the City say that the extra leeway was taken up in a matter of days. The City now believes that the airline will go back to the Government for a further increase of £100m in its cash limits.

Mr John Biffen, the new Secretary of State for Trade, is expected to make a statement on the serious state of British Airways' financial affairs in the Commons this week.

Not all of the airline's "belt-tightening" measures have the support of its staff, however. A group of senior employees is furious over the decision to cut fares against the opposition of airlines, believing that financial disaster rather than salvation lies in that direction.

Other airlines which are sticking to fares agreements made within the International Air Transport Association, of which the state airline has always been a pillar, are protesting bitterly at British Airways' marketing tactics.

The dissident employees have written to protest to the Prime Minister, Mr Thatcher, whose nominee, Sir John King, takes over as chairman of the airline on February 1 with the brief to pull it round financially and to reduce staff numbers.

Shop stewards have also reacted sharply to proposals to freeze pay. Three of the airline's 17 unions have called a mass meeting for tomorrow at which a 24-hour strike in support of the 1981 pay claim will be discussed. An offer of 8 per cent pay rise for the next 12 months while the money crisis is met has been rejected as unacceptable.

As another way of raising cash with which to pay the day-to-day running costs, including wages, British Airways is looking for buyers of several large blocks of property, including hotels and its old air terminals at Victoria and West London. It would like to cancel some aircraft orders, but the Boeing company in the United States will only allow deferrals, fearing that other airlines also

in bad shape because of the recession would want to follow.

The package holiday subsidiary, British Airports, has denied that it is trying to sell brand new Boeing 737s for which it has little work. Airports, which has been highly successful but which is now also in the financial doldrums, has tried to lease some 737s to its parent company, but British Airways cannot find jobs for them either.

Mr Biffen: Commons statement expected this week.

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## Call for curbs on 'cowboy' builders

By John Huxley

New moves aimed at tackling tax avoidance and evasion by "cowboy" construction companies are proposed in a memorandum submitted by the building industry to the Chancellor today.

It is estimated that the revenue loss caused by the operation of the "black" economy is between £2,000m and £3,500m a year.

The memorandum says that there is mounting concern among law-abiding companies at the growth of the black economy on the fringes of the construction industry. "During the past decade, this has led to increasingly damaging distortion of competition between the reputable, well-established building firms who fulfil all their taxation and other statutory obligations, and the less reputable elements who operate on a cash-and-no-questions-asked basis," the memorandum says.

It is common knowledge that to the latter type of individual is positively flourishing in certain sectors of the economy, especially the private, domestic sector of construction.

The memorandum has been prepared by a joint committee representing the National Federation of Building Trades Employees, the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, the Committee of Associations of Specialist Engineering Contractors, and the Export Group for the Construction Industry.

Describing the situation as "most disturbing and objectionable," the industry blames the present difficulties, in part, on the imposition of VAT on repair and maintenance work. At present VAT is not paid on new building work.

It adds that the black economy not only brings the law into disrepute, but results in an extra tax burden on all honest taxpayers.

The industry would prefer that the Government zero-rated repair and maintenance work. Failing this, it urges the introduction of a special relief from income tax for householders. Under this, they would be allowed to claim a reduction in tax covering the cost of building repair and improvement work which is carried out by a builder holding an Inland Revenue exemption certificate (No 714).

The memorandum also criticises the Government's continuing inability to meet its spending targets without resort to cutbacks on capital projects, the imposition of sudden moratoria on public expenditure plans, and its failure to provide incentives for private investment in building.

"This Government has particularly underestimated the damage to the economy of the swingeing housing cuts, the crisis in our neglected sewerage system, and the neglect of investment in new forms of energy creation. Altogether, public expenditure has been halved in the past

seven years, according to the memorandum. This has contributed to an almost unbroken slide in construction output over the past 10 years. The result is that the construction industry is now experiencing the worst recession and the highest level of unemployment, about 275,000, since the war.

Total building output is expected to fall by about 6 per cent in real terms this year, to about 18 per cent below that of a decade ago. A further fall of 9.5 per cent is forecast for 1982, pulling activity down to only three-quarters of its 1970 level, which is regarded by the industry as the benchmark for output and capacity.

Among several other changes sought by the industry are the doubling of the present £25,000 limit for mortgage interest relief, the introduction of 100 per cent depreciation allowance for commercial and industrial buildings, and a reduction in the National Insurance surcharge paid by employers.

Mr Arthur Nudd, the accountant who was in charge of auditing Grays Building Society, where a fraud was discovered in 1978, has been excluded from the membership of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

The Institute's Professional Standards Committee, reporting on its own inquiry into the highly critical conclusions of inspectors appointed by the Registrar of Friendly Societies, agrees with the inspectors' criticism of both auditors and audit.

The inspectors, who reported in 1979, said that there was "a consistent failure of the auditors to discharge their professional duties properly," and concluded that "the auditors were negligent."

After studying the inspectors' report and interviewing Mr Nudd, who since 1978 has been in charge of the society's accounts, the committee has concluded that the fraud in Grays was a "type of fraud which is easily bred in a business that involves large over-the-counter cash and cheque transactions and in which one person, having a dominant influence over the staff, is in a position to play a direct and unsupervised part in the handling and recording of the transaction."

The statement from the institute comes within days of another single branch building society calling in police to investigate alleged irregularities.

Since the Registrar's inspectors submitted their report over 18 months ago, the

accountancy bodies have offered draft auditing guidelines for building societies to improve their financial controls.

One of the controls introduced was a series of checks by the Registrar's officials on the accounts of all societies with assets of between £2m and £25m. It was in the course of such checks that the recent alleged irregularities came to light.

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The SMMT has managed to change the Government's line, that it cannot complain officially to a government







BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Japanese prospects

Wall Street's nervousness last week was in sharp contrast to the steady advance of the Tokyo stock market. The Dow-Jones Average in Tokyo at 7,243.13 hit a new peak with broad improvements in both domestic and export oriented sectors. So the market appears to be maintaining the bull phase which stretches back to the trough of 3,817 in 1974. Last week Yamaichi Securities was in London confidently extrapolating the graph to 12,900 in 1985.

Against such optimism scepticism would appear to be obligatory but it is difficult to sustain. Last year saw steady ratings of the high technology stocks as Japanese investors switched from the resource companies they had favoured in 1979. Such ratings appear likely to continue in spite of the recent strength of the domestic issues.

This strength has been supported by generally improved forecasts of consumer spending in fiscal 1981. The spring wage round should result in settlements in excess of an inflation rate that will soon fall substantially below its present 8.4 per cent.

Rowe & Pitman, leading London brokers, take the view that the excess will go towards correcting the historically low savings ratio which in turn will go to private housing, also at an historically low level, rather than into equities. Either way, uncertainty about the domestic outlook will tend to reinforce the existing British institutional prejudice towards the high technology export stocks.

On the face of it the outlook for a strong yen and a substantial fall in the rate of export growth from this year's level of 30 per cent would represent an argument against further exposure in this sector. In the case of Sony, whose shares doubled between March and August last year, that would now appear to hold good with its substantial overseas assets and earnings potentially damaged on translation.

Elsewhere, however, the intrinsic growth prospects would appear to overwhelm any harm the yen can do. Canon, for example, has pushed large portions of its borrowings into overseas subsidiaries while Minolta now reckons to be a net gainer from a strong yen. Both are installing considerable new capacity to meet apparently unstoppable growth in plain paper copiers. Video tape recorders, the other principal area of high technology hyper-growth, are still providing huge export margins in the absence of any serious overseas competition.

Against this background the downside risks appear small against almost any other world market, particularly with Japanese interest rates likely to follow Wall Street down after the recent cut from 9 to 7.25 per cent. Yet, by the same token, the rewards may well appear modest on an international scale if other markets, inspired by falling interest rates and glimmerings of a climb out of recession, really begin to take off.

### US interest rates

### A confused picture

Trying to predict dollar interest rates has been one of the more unprofitable exercises of the past year and international financial markets, having been led up the garden path too many times before, are still reserving judgment on whether United States domestic rates are finally on the way down. Although the United States money supply indicators are looking more encouraging and there were further prime-rate cuts last week to 19 1/2 per cent, two points below last month's peak, in the background there is still the sheer size of the Federal budget deficit to keep the pressure on interest rates. The Federal Reserve, too, is not losing any opportunity to reaffirm that it will stamp out any inflationary moves by the new

Administration; even when other rates are coming down this week it has been keeping the heat on the Federal Funds rate by draining reserves from the system.

All the same, the Eurodollar bond market has been using the window opened by the easier trends in United States domestic rates to release the floodgates on another round of new issues. Last week was no exception, taking the week's calendar over the \$1,000m mark. Yet again, however, it is looking as though borrowers and issue managers are trying to anticipate events too far ahead with very fine terms which are already meeting some resistance.

Coupons of no more than 13 per cent in most cases compare with Eurodollar deposit rates a good 3 points higher and sizable discounts have emerged in premarket trading as bond traders try to place all the new paper on offer. It will take more confidence on the United States interest rate front to cure the inevitable indignation that has come over the market and again last week there was pressure on prices in the secondary market.

Certainly, other bond markets around the world are not taking the apparent easing of United States rates at face value. German bonds, for example, are following the drop in United States bond prices after earlier confidence, seemingly backed up by the authorities in the Bundesbank's move to cut the yield on Federal notes.

### Stock relief

### Opposition to the Revenue

The Inland Revenue is coming in for a lot of flak over its proposals for reform of the stock relief scheme. While there has been general recognition that something needed to be done urgently, if only to avoid the serious short-term difficulties a number of companies were facing as the fall in their stock levels was leading to the possibility of clawback of earlier years' relief, both the principle and practice of the Revenue's approach has come under attack.

So far as the principle goes, that of ignoring current cost accounting as the basis of determining relief, there seems little chance of budging the authorities. Not only have they made it clear that their Green Paper will be implemented but several companies have already started to operate as though the Revenue's plans had the force of law. For the accountancy profession, which has been arguing its way towards an acceptable form of inflation accounting for the best part of a decade, the Revenue's view that the new CAA standard is too subjective to be used as the basis for tax has come as a slap in the face.

With the support of the Society of Investment Analysts as well last week, the accountants argue that the Revenue's proposals are a retrograde step in the sense that they seem to be based on a form of current purchasing power accounting, with the use of an "all-stocks" index rather than a specific measure of inflation.

Indeed, the SIA went even further, charging the Revenue with drawing up its index in such a way that it understates the rate of inflation as measured by more conventional indices. What also worries the accountants is that the Revenue's approach on stock relief may also reflect its thinking on the wider subject of corporation tax and that when the Revenue's plans on the reform of company tax are published later this year CCA profits will get similarly short shrift.

Where there does seem more chance of shifting the Revenue's approach is over the credit restriction proposal, whereby relief will be reduced to the extent that stocks are financed by borrowings. Because on its present definition of gearing the Revenue fails to distinguish between borrowing that is part of a company's capital structure and that which is part of the working capital and that no account is taken of monetary assets either.

On this basis companies with high fixed assets to stocks stand to gain most and that includes retailers with sizable property assets, the very group the new proposals are intended to penalize since at present they enjoy relief on stocks largely financed by trade creditors.

### New York

The lawyers who work for International Business Machines (IBM), the American computer giant, ought by now to have an unrivaled knowledge of anti-trust law—and they are about to add a whole new chapter.

Having been locked in combat for 12 years with the United States Justice Department in a still unresolved anti-trust suit, they now find themselves fighting a similar action in Europe.

This latest development surfaced just before Christmas when the European Commission delivered a voluminous document to the company's American headquarters in New York, headquarters, accusing it of abusing its dominant position as a supplier of computer equipment within the Community.

But while the European case will take up a lot of expensive legal time in the coming months it is generally considered here as something of a minor irritant when compared with the Justice Department battle.

"The Commission had gone too far to let the issue disappear," says a leading stock analyst who specializes in computer companies. "They felt they had to do something, but

## A European irritant for IBM

Having been locked in combat for 12 years with the United States Justice Department in a still unresolved anti-trust suit, the company's lawyers now find themselves fighting a similar action in Europe.

what they have done doesn't amount to much."

IBM came under the commission's scrutiny six years ago because it is the leading supplier of computer equipment in Europe. Although estimates vary, the company is thought to account for between 50 and 60 per cent of the computers installed in Europe. In 1979 IBM's sales in Europe were close to \$8,000m.

That investigation has now culminated in four charges involving IBM's pricing and marketing policies—far cry from the sweeping issues involved in the suit brought by the United States Justice Department, which alleged that the company had monopolized the general purpose computer systems market.

Two of the European Commission charges concern the software or instructions used to run IBM computers. The commission maintains that IBM ought to make some programs,

which are now proprietary, available to everyone. It also takes issue with the fact that IBM now includes some software in the basic price of the computer. Competitors would prefer all software to be priced separately so that there is more room for competition.

Likewise, the commission says that IBM ought to price separately the memory used to store data in its computers. At present some of that memory is included in the purchase price.

But the most controversial point concerns the practices of the company when it releases the specifications of new machines. At present the company waits until it has shipped its first orders before it releases the technical details that other manufacturers need to make equipment for attachment to new IBM products. The commission maintains that this is

too late, because it gives IBM as much as a year advantage over competitors.

IBM will respond with a written statement, probably within the next two months, and sometime after that will reply verbally to the charges. Although the company refuses to comment beyond saying that it is confident that it has fully complied with the rules of the community IBM is expected to bring the same legal power it is using in the American case to bear in Europe.

Indeed, it is likely to use the same lines of defence that it has already employed in the United States. IBM has successfully argued, in a case brought by the American company Memorex, that it has a position of dominance—more than 51 per cent—only if the market is limited to IBM and the so-called plug compatible companies which make computers that operate on IBM software at a lower cost than IBM.

At least two such companies, Memorex and Amdeh, filed complaints about IBM with the commission in the course of its investigation.

In addition, IBM will claim that its pricing and marketing practices are standard in the highly competitive computer industry, an argument that has also stood the company in good stead.

Even if the commission does not accept IBM's defence entirely, there is room for compromise on some points. IBM is thought to be willing to price memory separately, for instance. In any case, the process is not likely to be as drawn out as many of the other suits in which IBM has been involved, since there is only one level of appeal at the Court of Justice in Luxembourg. So the net result of the commission's actions will probably be a fairly inexpensive slap on the wrist. "I can't see any substantial constraints or any structural changes coming out of this," says one top executive in the industry.

"The EEC can't afford to do much because all those people in Europe using IBM equipment are using it because they want to."

Robert Hobbs

David Hewson

## Clouds on the summer holiday horizon?

Next summer, when unemployment may well pass the 2 1/2 million mark and gross domestic product fall by 2 per cent compared with 1980, more aircraft than ever before will be jostling at British airports ready to take what the tour operators hope will be a record number of holidaymakers abroad.

Last week Sir Freddie Laker took delivery of his first Airbus A-300 and inaugurated, as he is wont to do, a new era in aviation. From June his package tour division will be flying solely in wide-bodied jets, DC-10s seating 345 and Airbus seating 295—the only such company to do so. The decision means that Laker has 135,000 charter seats on the market for Europe and 45,000 for America, an increase of a half on the company's budget for 1980.

Britannia Airways, the charter subsidiary of Thomson Holidays, Britain's largest tour operator, will increase its fleet of 130-seat Boeing 737s by three, Iatusm's charter operation, Air Europe, will add on two 737s and Horizon's Orion Airways will enlarge its fleet of four 737s to seven.

It is probable that the number of charter seats on the market this summer will be about 20 per cent higher than last year.

Where will the extra business come from? By the end of this month when the picture of summer bookings should be clear, that is a question which may well be asked in many airline company board rooms.

Most companies have put on capacity because of demand from their parent holiday companies. Thomson has increased its number of holidays available by 25 per cent, declaring that it would increase its market share through an aggressive sales policy. Laker, committed as it was to moving into Airbus, has increased its holiday programme by half, and most other companies went up by about 20 per cent.

On the face of it there were good reasons why the tour operators should have thought it wise to increase capacity. Package tour business out of West Germany and Scandinavia had fallen along with their currencies will enable British companies to negotiate new, highly competitive, deals covering hotels, notably in Spain. It also seems to have been

true in recent years that the economic climate has not had as detrimental an effect on the holiday business as on other kinds of spending, at any rate while the pound has been strong. Indeed, in the eyes of many people holidays appear to have changed from being luxuries to being necessities.

Besides this change of attitude there is the fact that those receiving redundancy pay have a very real incentive to spend it, possibly on holidays. To retain their final pay-off could reduce the amount of money available to them through state benefits.

Most companies therefore increased capacity and at the same time have been able to maintain prices at 1980's levels or actually reduce them.

This is the background against which the number of aircraft seats available is being increased. But have the companies got their calculations right? Winter bookings for most package tour companies were disappointing, not so much in the traditional skiing areas but in the Mediterranean destinations.

The summer period is likely to prove the most significant. Thomson and Global created something of a stir within the industry when they announced that there had been a rush of holiday sales in late November and December. Thomson claimed a 40 per cent increase on the same period last year and now Laker is saying that its sales are up 52 per cent.

But their experiences are not matched by many travel agents, particularly in areas which have been badly affected by the recession. Miss Margaret Jobling, chairman and managing director of The Travel Centre, Stoke, which has four agencies in the town, is typical. She says that industry in the area is very depressed.

"As of last Saturday three of our offices were anything between 12 and 20 per cent down in bookings for next summer and one of our offices, in an end of the city where there have been many redundancies, is as much as 35 per cent down. "Our gut feeling is that business is picking up. This week last year was a good week anyway. I am quite optimistic. We expect business to be at least at the level of last year and possibly slightly up." She does not, however, expect any substantial increase.

Miss Jobling believes that the



A beach in Majorca, one of the most popular destinations for Britons: this year many tour companies have increased the number of their overseas holidays.

larger tour operators will increase their market share at the expense of the middle range operators who cannot compete against them on cost.

There are signs within the charter airlines, too, that expectations are being adjusted. Last week it was disclosed that British Airports, the British Airways subsidiary, was expecting a 20 per cent fall in traffic and to move into a loss after making £4.2m last year after interest and before tax.

Cosmos, Britain's second largest tour operator, has stayed clear of making claims about increases in its traffic next year and its sister airline, Monarch, which flies for many other operators as well, is actually reducing capacity next summer.

Two Monarch 737s will be operating out of Berlin from March flying "West German holidaymakers to and from their destinations in the kind of deal which other operators may soon start to seek.

According to Monarch's sales director, Mr Peter Dorrington, "there is a lot of available seats in the market and that position will remain substantial."

tially the same for the rest of 1981. I don't think anybody would say it has been a good winter for the charter airlines. All of us are expecting a degree of cutback depending on who we are flying for."

A measure of how overcapacity is affecting competitiveness for the summer is the level of prices the charter airlines are charging small independent tour operators. According to one small operator, seats are being offered at present at no more than 5 per cent more than the independents were paying last summer.

When the pattern of summer booking becomes clear at the end of this month, the big tour operators will know where their programmes stand. If there is a shortfall in bookings, they may have been caught in a vicious circle of their own making.

Last-minute discounting to recent years has led many holidaymakers to believe that there is little reason to book early. Late booking not only deprives the tour operators of early deposits but leaves them in the dark over which programmes to cancel or merge with others—"consolidate", to use the industry euphemism.

A combination of low early bookings and high overcapacity could lead to widespread concentration of programmes into the most popular resorts, an orgy of last-minute discounting, which would hit the medium-size operator, and a field day for the more flexible small operators who could pick up seats at very low prices to fit into their programmes.

But in spite of the problems, the large tour operators should look forward to a profitable, if not sensational year. If, indeed, which jostles with Horizon for third place in the tour operator's league table, comes to the market shortly, as some expect, we may see how much of this confidence is reflected in the public.

Many brokers believe that it is Iatusm takes the plunge we are likely to see that, in the face of the recession, there is a great deal of faith around in a sector of British industry which might have been expected to suffer more than most from recent economic trends.

## An object lesson in specialization

### Industry in the regions

### Bolton

ing director, found himself in sole control of the company while still in his early twenties. Although he had been reared in the business he had had little opportunity to gain practical experience because his university days had been immediately followed by wartime service in the army.

After almost a century Howarth was a name of distinction in textiles, brewing and a number of other industrial fields, but rapid changes were on the way—in textiles especially. Man-made fibres and a new generation of textile machines had arrived.

Mr Howarth looked at these machines, identified some of their special problems in their special treatment mostly resulting from high-speed operation, and came up with the answers. Again, a Howarth invention became universally applied.

"Our equipment went all over the world," Mr Howarth says. But the boom in textile machinery was bound to end and Mr Howarth knew that his company must find other areas in which to apply its design and manufacturing skills. In the early 1960s an almost chance encounter took Howarth into the field of hospital engineering. Today this represents more than three quarters of its total business and it is an area in which Mr Howarth has become not only totally absorbed but a figure of international repute.

Mr Hugh Howarth, the present chairman and managing

Professor John Charnley at Wrightington Hospital, in Lancashire, saying that there was an urgent need for a system that would prevent airborne infection of wounds during surgery. Mr Howarth explained that he knew nothing of medical requirements but would "come and have a look."

The outcome was that he designed, and his company built, a prototype system that was subsequently presented to Wrightington Hospital. It was a triumph, drawing medical attention throughout the world.

In almost two decades since that first visit to Wrightington Mr Howarth has become immersed in the subject and his company is again a world leader.

Mr Howarth, a past-president of the Institute of Hospital Engineering, has lectured to the Royal College of Surgeons on the airflow patterns in operating theatres and he spends much of his time travelling the world addressing medical audiences on the subject.

More than two hundred operating theatres throughout the world have now been equipped by Howarth.

Near his home at Ollerton in Lancashire Mr Howarth has set up the Howarth Air Engineering Research Laboratory. He and his wife have become experts in the highly specialized techniques required to produce films demonstrating the Howarth systems.

There is now a fourth generation Howarth in the company. The manufacturing base at Bolton remains fairly small, though constant, with about 90 employees, "all with a high degree of skills."

"We like to do the difficult bits ourselves and sub-contract the easier ones. It makes life a lot more interesting," Mr Howarth says.

R. W. Shakespeare

## Business Diary profile: Keith MacMillan, Henley ragazzo

Henley conjures up visions of summer and swans, of Brakspear's ales which so beguilingly slip down the throat, and above all, of four days in July when the world's rowers strive for honours in the annual Royal Regatta.

That is not all there is to Henley, of course; there is, for instance, the Administrative Staff College, which at 34 is much younger than the regatta (142 this year) and is thus still making its mark.

So, too, is its new Professor of Management Studies, Keith MacMillan, who is only a year older than his college and thus has some way to go. He is an economist and not a rowing man; certainly he is not in the same boat as those economists older but newly fashionable in Thatcher Britain, men such as Friedman and Hayek. MacMillan, who does not believe in unemployment is a Good Thing, is in economics terms rowing against the current.

By the time this summer's regatta gets under way MacMillan will have embarked upon another session as director of studies of Henley's Masters' Programme. Though, at 34, now by the standards even of redbrick universities, Henley claims to be "the longest established management school in Europe."

The Masters' Programme with which MacMillan is associated, is seen by him as an antidote to American-style courses at the newer British management schools, where men and women straight from university are versed in the corporate arts.

Most of the people on the Henley course have had between five and 15 years' experience in management. They spend much of their time on the course dealing with consul-



Rowing hard against the current fashion in economics? Professor Keith MacMillan (centre), of the Administrative Staff College, Henley, and Professors Friedman (left) and Rayes.

of cultural memory of unemployment," he says. "My father was unemployed for quite a while in the thirties—he was a joiner in the shipyards in Sunderland."

His father retired as a local government education officer and although, as befits a man who has made professor at 35, MacMillan has an abiding faith in the efficacy of education, a decrease in government employment, especially local government employment, is one benefit he sees as arising from the application of his theories on "social entrepreneurship."

A written statement of these is to be seen in his latest effusion, a chapter contributed to the forthcoming *Research in Corporate Social Performance and Policy* (JAI Press). It is entitled "Corporate Social Responsibility and the Unemployment Problem."

For MacMillan is not a knee-jerk opponent of the apostles of less Government. "I don't believe you can create new jobs by the Government's throwing money at the problem," he says. "I think the jobs have to be created by new business ventures."

In saying this, he may be rowing against the current, but he is not alone. A business government committee, the Community Involvement Unit, is to report later this year on a number of companies, among them BSC, Lucas, Pilkingtons and Shell are experimenting singly or severally in backing new firms.

So far, however, the effort amounts to little more than "tokenism" in relation to what is needed, MacMillan says. Can big companies, he asks, work together to spread the risk in backing new small firms or are they too bureaucratic to understand how small business works?

Professor MacMillan keeps on rowing hard against the current. "I'm trying to get new business created and people thinking about new business creation now—that's my main purpose."

It's easy to be erudite in observations about unemployment trends and to decide in which stage of the cycle we are—but actually to try to change people's perceptions about what they might do to regenerate new business opportunities at a time when everybody is pessimistic is a very lonely job."

Ross Davies



FINANCIAL NEWS

# Accountancy body fearful of effects of EEC proposals

By Our Financial Staff

Proposals for such EEC directives on auditors' qualifications, if enacted, could jeopardize the accountancy profession in Britain and Ireland, the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies says in a letter to Mr John Biffen, the Trade Secretary.

The committee, which represents the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ireland, and the Association of Certified Accountants, says there are four areas of concern.

The first, and most important, is the committee's view, in the directive's articles dealing with the independence of auditors. On one interpretation, it could prevent an auditor from giving tax and other advice to clients.

In its letter the committee comments: "Auditors have traditionally provided such advice in this country. To change this system in a way that requires a company to employ one firm of accountants to audit the accounts and another to provide tax and other advice, we think, is in the best interests of the public."

A second problem is the directive's proposal that accountancy students should have a minimum of three years' practical training "involving principally the statutory audit of the annual accounts of companies".

On another issue, article seven of the proposals, which deals with the rights of existing auditors (the "grandfather clause"), the committee feels that qualifications accountants who qualified as members of one of its constituent institutes before the directive and who at present carry out statutory audits could lose those rights.

The committee complains that although the matter has been taken up with the European Commission "no satisfactory answer has been received".

The last point is that article 10 appears to make no provision for mutual recognition of member states of the EEC. The committee intends to deal with this in a separate directive, but it points out that if the two directives do not appear at the same time, it is a risk that accountants practising in other countries may have to stop.

# SGB expected to show increase despite caution

The building and construction industry takes top billing this week with full-year figures from SGB Group and an interim statement from Magnet & Southern.

Grand Metropolitan also rounds off the brewery reporting season with full-year figures in the wake of a recent report from the Customs and Excise which shows beer volume down by between 7 per cent and 8 per cent. Full-year figures are also expected from S. & W. Berisford, the commodity trading group currently bidding for British Sugar.

It is a busy week on the economic front, starting today with the Central Government borrowing requirement for December from the Treasury, along with housing starts, and completions for November from the Department of the Environment, and the November from the Department of Trade.

This is followed on Thursday by the UK bank's assets and liabilities and the money supply for mid-December from the Bank of England.

Finally, on Friday, the Department of Employment releases the retail prices index for December and the Department of Trade/CSO give the balance of payments for December.

After a good first-half performance, full-year figures from SGB Group tomorrow are expected to range from £16m to £17m compared with £14.5m last year.

## This week

against the continued depressed conditions of the construction industry as a whole, which has put margins under pressure.

The group's trading cash flow remains strong and its diversification programme continues apace. But the plant hire side has continued to suffer with rates unable to keep pace with replacement costs and the DIY activities have continued to feel the pinch with the downturn in consumer expenditure.

A healthy increase is expected in the dividend, with expectations of 7.9p gross compared with 6.5p last year.

On the other hand, Magnet & Southern's interim figures out on Wednesday are likely to show a downturn to £11.5m from last year's figure of £12.8m.

The chairman stated at the group's annual meeting that an increase in turnover had been experienced but this had been accompanied by a downturn in volume.

Once again the recession in the construction industry has

# Glimmer of hope in the engineering field

The general tone in the engineering sector remains as depressed as it was last year, but there are hopes that recovery will start late this year.

The fall in interest rates and a weakening in sterling do not change the picture dramatically. Some glimmers may come from companies which have got over the worst through redundancies and slimming down.

One company believed to have escaped the vicious circle of high borrowings and little capital expenditure is Peter Brotherhood recommended by brokers, Henderson Crosthwaite. Following the rights issue last November and Brotherhood's marriage with Thermo Electron Corporation of the United States, the group is expected to show pre-tax profits of between £1m and £2m in 1981 to 1982 after last year's half-year losses. On a yield of 3 per cent, next year's fully-taxed earnings probably represent a multiple of around four times, at present prices.

Dowty has seen a decade of growth which lifted two years ago by a £100m order from China but it is obviously in for a further struggle this year. The position has been aggravated by restraints on the National Coal Board (NCB) licence. The implications, suggest Henderson Crosthwaite, are that the mining equipment division, despite attempts to boost export business, will again be down.

With the industrial division also down, there is some cheer from electronics which should increase its contribution. But, again, defence expenditure cuts are bound to have an effect. Its aerospace business might provide the balance with orders last year increasing by 56 per cent. But it is doubtful that this will make up for the support given by the Chinese order.

After all the fears of dividend cuts, the brokers suggest that investments at Barker Perkins are relatively safe. Dividends are expected to be paid with the company's expected profits of £9m in 1982 to 1983. Profits this year will be earned overseas which takes 80 per cent sales. The first-half loss is expected to be compensated for by better second-half figures. Although it is unlikely to break even this year, a return to profits is forecast for next year.

Brokers Henry Cooke, Lumsden, recommend holding on to Dobson Park Industries shares because of the long-term prospects in mining machinery and

A total dividend of 13.93p is anticipated compared with 10.7p last time.

TODAY—Interims: Astra Industrial, Curcio Engineering, Ellis & Everard, Higgs Robinson, Murray Northern Investment, Trust, Ramers Jewellers, F. H. Tomkings, Roskill Higgs, F. H. Tomkings, Roskill Higgs, Brentnall Bear Higgs, Claverhouse Investment Trust.

TOMORROW—Interims: A. & J. Geller, Jones Stroud Higgs, Somportex Higgs. Finals: Investors Capital Trust, SGB Group, Reo Stakis Organisation.

WEDNESDAY—Interims: Allied Colloids Group, Centway, Diamond Stylus, Linford Higgs, Magnet & Southern, Woodrow Wyatt. Finals: Brooks Tool Eng, Thos French and Sons, Kenning Motor Group, M. & C. Dual Trust.

THURSDAY—Interims: Dixons Photographic, London & Montrose Investment Trust, Henry Wigfall. Finals: S. & W. Berisford, Dewhurst & Partner, Grand Metropolitan, Greenfair Investment, Kennings Estates, Multhead.

FRIDAY—Interims: British Benzol Carbonising, Caledonian Associated, Cinemas, Cantors, Lerrasse, Western Board Mills, F. H. Tomkings, Roskill Higgs, Mining & Finance, Raeburn Investment, United Guarantee Higgs.



Mr. Neville Clifford-Jones, chairman of the SGB Group.

£35m to £37m compared with £32m.

Once again most of the group's progress, or lack of it, will depend on the commodity market.

The cocoa market during this period remained flat and rumours continue to circulate that two recent deals on the Ivory Coast may have cost the group dearly.

United States acquisition, Liggett.

Finally, on Thursday, S. & W. Berisford, currently awaiting the findings of the Monopolies Commission's inquiry into its bid for British Sugar, unveil full-year profits.

These are expected to reveal pretax profits ranging from £1.5m to £2.5m.

# Sime Darby gives up bid for Guthrie

Sime Darby is ending its attempt to gain control of the Guthrie Corporation. Both hold rubber, palm oil, and other plantation interests in Malaysia and elsewhere and Sime Darby had an all out bid to gain control of Guthrie last year, but failed to gain the necessary shares.

A statement by Sime Darby said: "Sime Darby announces that at an extraordinary general meeting held Friday an ordinary resolution was passed authorizing directors of the company and its subsidiaries to sell the entire holding of the company and its subsidiaries in 8,615,500 ordinary shares in the Guthrie Corporation Limited for 37.22 Ringgit (\$16.84) per share in cash."

Some officials said the shares are being distributed among three Malay companies.

Other corporate officials said there was nothing to prevent Sime Darby from making another takeover attempt at a later date with the assistance of the Malay companies that are taking over its Guthrie shares.

## Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crdis	14%
C. Hoare & Co	14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
Rosminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams & Glyn's	14%

\* 7 day deposit on sum of £50,000, 12% p.a. (incl. 1% p.a. £50,000, 12% p.a.)

# The quiet revolution in investment trusts

The last year has seen a quiet revolution in the investment trust movement which has suddenly shaken off its cautious habits and found new confidence. Trust performances have improved, and share price discounts to net assets have narrowed to an average of 22 per cent, compared with 32 per cent a year ago. The quality trusts have been trading even closer to their net asset values.

The change of mood was thrust upon the movement by the removal of excess controls in October 1979, and pressure from institutional holders to improve performances.

When exchange controls came off, most fund managers were dazzled or just plain bewildered by the immediate choice suddenly opened to them. Since then, many trusts have made a virtue of necessity, cultivating the art of specialization. Energy and high technology trusts are particularly popular, and geographical specialization has been taken further than before.

The latest newcomer to the energy field is Winterbottom, a Baillie Gifford trust, which has decided to concentrate on the oil industry. On the high technology front, there is the Independent Investment Trust, floated off as a rights issue to shareholders of Atlantic Assets, which also pursues selected energy stocks.

Smaller companies are also popular. Unusual plans are afoot at Throgmorton Trust to use its February 1980 acquisition, Capital for Industry, to take control

ling stakes in small companies and develop them with a view to flotation later.

Not all trusts decided to specialize in such narrow fields, but many of the broad-based trusts have narrowed their ranges. The Murray Johnston trusts were among the first of these to be differentiated from one another, with one concentrating on income growth, one on capital growth and one on smaller companies, leaving just one to maintain the spread that all four previously embraced.

Much of the last year's improvement in investment trust performance is a result of pressure from institutional shareholders on fund managers to sharpen up. The industry is watching Mercantile Investment Trust with particular interest after an unsuccessful attempt by institutional shareholders to realize its funds. Instead the trust is considering a sale to private investors.

That it divided in two is a part to be unlearned, and one to specialize. A decision is due at the annual meeting in April.

Better performances have contributed to narrower discounts. So far, last year's capital gains tax change, which removed the CGT advantages of profits on investment trust shares over other shares.

That has lessened the incen-

tives to sell investment trust shares among private investors raising cash, and reduced the pool of shares available to buyers, while the marketability of the quality shares has been helped by the introduction of a specialist and capital board in investment trusts.

According to Mr Edward Sellers of Laing & Cruikshank, the recent good performances



Mr. John Storor, chairman of the Association of Investment Trust Companies.

now show signs of tailing off, as the recession makes itself felt in trust portfolios. But income from investment trusts remains safer than other dividends. Though investment trust dividends are expected to grow by a lower percentage this year than in 1980, projections of 15 per cent growth in

# Business appointments

## Changes at Imperial Group

Sir Robin Haydon has been appointed director of group public affairs of Imperial Group and is relinquishing his non-executive status. Mr James H. Higgins has joined the board of Imperial Group as a non-executive director.

Four new departmental directors have been appointed by Sir Robin Haydon. They are: Mr E. A. Q. Davidson, Mr N. E. Markes, Mr R. Spencer and Mr K. C. Worrall.

Mr D. A. Davis has been named director-designate of a new headquarters department which the Central Electricity Generating Board is to set up on April 1 as a successor to its planning department. Mr Davis will be director of production in the CEB's north eastern region.

Mr P. R. Gibbons has been named joint investment manager of Scottish Equitable Life Assurance Society. Mr T. K. Murray becomes mortgage secretary, responsible for the new mortgage department which will handle all mortgage lending by the society.

Mr John Bone and Mr Trevor Ashby have joined the board of directors of the British Overseas Airways Corporation. Mr Bone is chairman and joint managing director respectively. In addition Mr Bone joins the board of Airlines of the United Kingdom.

Mr Howard F. Elkins has been appointed to the board of Holl Lloyd's chairman.

Professor Sir John Hill has been appointed chairman of the Medical Research Council and Life Assurance Society, after the death of Dr C. E. Hunt. Sir Hugh Lockhart-Mummery becomes vice chairman.

Miss Betty Boothroyd, MP for Watlington, has been appointed to the board of the Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust Co.

Mr Peter Breeze has been appointed director of Ultramar Exploration and Ultramar North Sea.

Mr Eric L. Cooper has been appointed director of Joseph Mason & Co with effect from February 1.

Mr P. L. A. Jamieson has been appointed director of Starling Trust. Mr D. W. J. Garrett has been appointed a director.

Mr H. C. Jamieson has become the director of the company of AFA-Minerva (EMI).

Mr Barry Farnham has been appointed by Perkins Engines as director of engineering. He replaces Mr David P. Allen, who has been appointed managing director of the European operations of a British company specializing in noise reduction products.

Mr David W. Livingston, deputy chairman and managing director of Albright & Wilson, has been appointed a member of the Legal and General Assurance Society's Midlands advisory board.

## Burnett and Hallamshire acquisitions

Burnett and Hallamshire has purchased on behalf of its wholly-owned subsidiary, the Mining Investment Corporation, the issued share capital of Rushcliffe Fuels and Pineholt Development for £1.6m and a deferred consideration of up to £600,000 based on profits for the year to next September 30.

The purchase includes Pineholt's wholly-owned subsidiary, Trigg Plant. The vendor is Speedwell Commercial Leasing and Securities, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Clumber Holdings.

The deferred consideration will be payable subject to combined audited profits of Pineholt, Rushcliffe and Trigg this year being not less than £850,000.

## Japan shale project

The Japan National Oil Corporation will start long-term oil shale development projects in the fiscal year beginning in April aimed at supplying the country with 44 million barrels of oil in fiscal 1990.

# Malaysia transfers shares to citizens

Malaysia's prime minister, Mr Hussein Onn, has begun a new phase in the government's New Economic Policy by transferring 1,500 ringgits (about £300) worth of government-owned shares in private companies to the Malays.

The transfer is to fulfill the government's promise that by 1990 the Malays, who form 55 per cent of the population, will own at least 30 per cent of corporate wealth.

Malays now own about 4 per cent of the nation's corporate wealth in shares listed on the Malaysia Stock Exchange. Non-Malays own 40 per cent and foreigners 48 per cent.

## International

bank said 1980 group net profit should fall to around 200m francs from the 1979 level of 243.9m francs.

## Getty budget

Getty Oil Co said in Los Angeles its board had approved a \$2,240m capital expenditure programme for 1981 operations.

## No Mitsui forecast

Mitsui and Co, the Japanese trading concern, was unable to predict consolidated business results for the year to March 31 because of uncertain world economic trends and

## New Life Business

Scottish Mutual Assurance Society: New annual premium income written was £8.2m (£8.4m in 1979) and single premiums and annuity considerations £6.2m (£6.2m). Corresponding new life sums assured, £373.0m (£347.0m) and new pensions and annuities £19.0m (£18.2m per annum).

Crusader Insurance: Crusader Insurance reports the following results for new life assurance and annuity business completed in 1980 in the United Kingdom and overseas branches. New annual premium income exceeded £10.2m, an increase of over 17 per cent (£8.7m) of which ordinary business written in the United Kingdom amounted to £6.7m (£6.5m), increases of 16 per cent and 20 per cent respectively.

Single premiums and annuity considerations exceeded £13.5m up by 45 per cent over the 1979 figure of £9.3m. New records were also set for ordinary and group sums assured which exceeded £1,572m, an increase of 26 per cent over the 1979 figure of £1,157m.

Record bonus from UK Provident: A £90m record bonus for policyholders a record bonus declaration and a future change from triennial to annual bonus, is the news from UK Provident. The bonus declaration for the three years to December 31 1980 is a record for UK Provident; £5.00

per cent per annum has been awarded for low-probability life contracts and £5.75 per cent per annum for the pension business fund. Both the above rates are calculated on the sum assured or annuity and on existing bonuses. These declared rates of bonus compare with £4.30 per cent (life) and £4.80 per cent (pensions) for the 1975/77 period.

Clerical Medical: Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society announces a record annual premium income for 1980. Total new annual premiums of £22.7m, compared with £15.6m in 1979, show an increase of 46 per cent. New single premiums at £13.2m (£13.0m) were 2 per cent up on 1979. Ordinary life annual premiums £5.3m (£5.6m) were down 6 per cent, but equivalent sums assured increased by 12 per cent to £254m (£227m). Occupational pensions new annual premiums increased by 26 per cent to £10.9m, while new single premiums increased by 10 per cent to £10.9m. There was a substantial increase in 1980 in the number of pension funds to which the society offers individual portfolio management. Total funds now under management amount to just over £100m.

MGM Assurance: A substantial increase in new premium income for 1980 is reported by MGM Assurance, this being a significant achievement against the market trend. Total new premium income rose by more than 65 per cent to £9.6m (£5.8m). New annual premiums of £2.95m were up 33 per cent over the previous year (£2.01m), much of the growth being due to MGM's successful pension plans. MGM has also declared record bonuses for 1980. Scottish Amicable Life: Annual

## Guiltspur shareholders accept Unigate offer

J. Henry Schroder Wagg and Co has announced that in response to its offers on behalf of Unigate to acquire all of the share capital of Guiltspur, acceptances have been received in respect of 16,973,416 shares in Guiltspur, representing 89.5 per cent of the issued share capital.

## M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

response to its offers on behalf of Unigate to acquire all of the shares capital of Giltspur. Acceptances have been received in respect of 16,973,416 shares of Giltspur, representing 83.5 per cent of the issued share capital.

**M. J. H. Nightingale**  
27128 Lovat Lane London EC3A 1R

**The Over-the-Counter**

Capitalisation 2000's	Company
3,700	Airspurge Group
875	Armstrong & Rhodes
11,548	Bardon Hill
460	Courtesy Cars Pref
7,385	Deborah Services
4,387	Frank Horsell
8,523	Frederick Parker
1,597	George Blair
2,750	Jackson Group
16,700	James Burroughs
3,366	Robert Jenkins
2,650	Scruttons "A"
3,369	Torday Limited
2,992	Twinklford Ltd
2,129	Twinklford 15% ULS
5,646	Unilock Holdings
12,906	Walter Alexander
5,904	W. S. Yeates



[illegible]



## Stock Exchange Prices

### Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin Today. Dealings End, Jan 23. \$ Contango Day, Jan 26. Settlement Day, Feb 2

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

\*Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted.

[illegible]



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Sainsbury, M. & S., etc. 01-536 2424.  
Printing Administration Ltd.  
Address, Production, Distribution. 01-928 1982.  
Team Creative (Advertising, Artwork, Design  
and Print) Ltd.  
01-508 2776. Top quality design studio.  
BUSINESS GIFTS & PROMOTIONAL SERVICES  
Source Publications Ltd.  
Free Catalogues. 1,000 + gifts. 044-67 80282.  
E. & C. Limited.  
Gifts, cards & labels. 01-479 0921.  
Imperial Promotions Ltd.  
Exclusive advertising. 01-508 7187.  
Intelligence Ltd.  
Badges, key rings, pens, etc. 01-233 8288.  
EBC. The promotional pen people.  
01-508 7187.  
BUSINESS TRAVEL  
Business & Holiday Travel Ltd.











